

*Town of  
Oakham Massachusetts*



TOWN REPORT 2003



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**of the**  
**OFFICERS, DEPARTMENTS,**  
**BOARDS and COMMITTEES**  
**for the**  
**TOWN OF OAKHAM,**  
**MASSACHUSETTS**



**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR**

**July 1, 2002**  
**to**  
**June 30, 2003**



**GENERAL GOVERNMENT ~**  
**ADMINISTRATION**

---

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**TOWN CLERK**





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Boston Public Library

<https://archive.org/details/annualreportsoft2003oakh>

# BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen and all other Town Boards, Committees and Officers do hereby submit their annual reports to you for the period July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003.

The Board of Selectmen meet at the Town Hall every other Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. throughout the year. Meetings are open to the public. Anyone wishing to contact the Board may do so through the Selectmen's office at the Town Hall or by attending the meetings. We began the year with Timothy Toomey as Chairman, Clayton Rice as Vice Chairman and Jeffrey Young as Clerk Member.

Throughout the year we conducted the town's business on behalf of the people of Oakham in an efficient and fiscally responsible manner. In order to save taxpayer dollars, we "bid out" town services and equipment such as fuel oil, diesel fuel, heating system maintenance contracts and highway materials. Mitchell Oil of Barre submitted the low bid of \$0.86 per gallon for heating oil and was awarded the contract for the fiscal year.

We are examining all of our operating costs such as electricity, telephones supplies and suppliers etc. and making changes and or adjustments where it makes sense to do so.

The following licenses/permits were issued from this office:

**Class II Auto License**

1 New License  
6 Renewals

**Alcoholic Beverage License** (Approved by the State of Massachusetts)

4 Renewals

**Entertainment Permit** (Approved by the State of Massachusetts)

1 Renewal

**Gasoline/Diesel Storage License** (Approved by the Fire Chief)

1

After purchasing the Old Schoolhouse in July 2002 a Committee was appointed to catalog assets and make necessary repairs to the building. Committee members are Clayton Rice, Joe Sansoucy, Marcia Casault, Ken Houseman and Ward Holloway. The long-term objective of the committee is to determine the best use of the property.

Bids were requested and received for replacing the Town Hall heating system. With the advice of Technical Support Services, a consulting firm, the bids were later rejected. The lowest bid of \$92,346 was 40% higher than the consultants had estimated the job would cost. It was decided to re-bid the project in the spring of 2004.

Mary & Gus Crombie of Spencer Road named the Fobes Memorial Library as the beneficiary of the Crombie Trust Fund.

Angelo Salvatore of Gardner Chevrolet donated a new Chevrolet Blazer police cruiser to the Town on a free 3-year lease. At the end of the lease period, the Town can either purchase the vehicle at wholesale cost or return it to the dealer. This is a savings to the Town of approximately \$30,000.

Ralph Mann of Spencer Road donated a photograph to the Town that was taken in 1874 on the day that the building of the Town Hall was completed. We have chosen to share the photograph with the people of Oakham by placing it on the cover of this report.

Our dear friend, colleague and neighbor Aubrey March passed away. Aubrey will be sadly missed.

We received a grant of two defibrillators from the Department of Public Safety. These life saving devices were given to the Police and Fire Departments respectively.

Chief Haapakoski received a citation from the Massachusetts Community Employer Support of Guards and Reserves for his support of his employees who serve in our National Guard forces.

Police Officer and National Guardsman James Albano presented the Town with an American flag that was flown atop the air traffic control tower, the highest point on Bagram Airbase, Bagram, Afghanistan. Mr. Albano had just completed a tour of duty in the Middle East.

The Board reorganized with Clayton Rice serving as Chairman, Jeffrey Young as Vice Chairman and Timothy Toomey as Clerk Member.

We presented Blue Star Service Banners to ten Oakham families who had family members that were currently serving in the armed forces. We recognize and appreciate their sacrifice.

Deputy Fire Chief Gary LeBlanc retired after 27 years of service; we wish Gary all the best in his retirement. Fire Chief Dick Howe resigned after 30 years of service; we thank Dick for his contribution over the years. Tom Snay was named acting Chief until a new Chief could be appointed.

We would like to say thank you to the people of Oakham for all of their support throughout the year and also to our colleagues, the board members, officers, committees and employees who serve the public on a day-to-day basis for their hard work and dedication. We especially would like to thank all the many volunteers who give unselfishly of themselves in so many ways. Oakham is lucky to have you!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Clayton Rice, Chairman  
Jeffrey Young, Vice Chairman  
Timothy Toomey, Clerk Member



## APPOINTED POSITIONS

POSITION	NAME	TERM EXPIRATION
Administrative Assistant	Carol Poole	2003
Board of Registrars	Susan Carpenter	2003
	Maude Stone	2003
	Lucy Tessnau	2003
	Christine Mardirosian	2003
Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement	Joe Sansoucy	2003
Building Inspector/Alternate	Harry Johnson	2003
Board of Health	Rita Olson (Due to vacancy)	2003
Conservation Commission	Lucy Tessnau	2007
	C. Joyce Megarry	2004
	Mark Stellato	2006
	Mark Blanchard	2003
	Roland Ruel	2005
	Michelle Rutman	2005
	Betty Gaidanowicz	2003
Council on Aging	Natalie Sokol	2006
	Bill Kirkman	2005
	Ann Troy	2007
Cultural Council (Arts Council)	Linda Webster-Drake	2004
	Judy Lane	2004
	Kyle Carey	2003
	Celeste Goodhue	2003
	Pat Szafarowicz	2003
Dog Officer	Tom Bolack	2004
Elderbus Representative	Bill Kirkham	2003
Emergency Management Director	Glen Mardirosian (resigned)	2003
	Fred Gehring	2004
Fire Chief	Richard Howe (resigned)	2003
Harassment Officer	Carol Poole	2003
Highway Superintendent	C. Kevin Currier	2003
Historical Commission	Jeff Young	2003
	Maude Stone	2003
	Wesley Dwelly	2003
Library Building Committee	Susan Turnbull	2003
	Lionel Lajoie (Resigned 3/03)	2003
	Ralph Dwelly	2003

POSITION	NAME	TERM EXPIRATION
Library Building Committee	Timothy Toomey	2003
	Susan Meyer	2003
Library Trustee (Due to vacancy)	Susan Turnbull	2003
Old Schoolhouse Committee	Wes Dwelley	2003
	Clayton Rice	2003
	Marcia Casault	2003
	Joseph Sansoucy	2003
	Ken Houseman	2003
	Ward Holloway	2003
Plumbing Inspector	Byron Carpenter	2003
Planning Board (Due to vacancy)	Jim Barnhill	2003
Recycling Coordinator	Nancy Johnston	2003
Town Accountant	Donna Couture	2003
Town Council	Robert J. Cox/Bowditch & Dewey	2003
Veterans Agent	William Mucha	2003
Wire Inspector	Denis delaGorgendiere	2003
Wire Inspector Assistant	L. Thomas McCaffrey	2003
Zoning Board of Appeals	Gunther Mueller	2003
	Lucy Tessnau	2004
	Carol Spinney	2005
Zoning Board of Appeals		
Alternate	Leo McCaffrey	2003
Police Chief	Donald Haapakoski	2003
Police Officers	Sgt. Michael Sweet	2003
	Sgt. Tom Lee	2003
	Officer Fred Gehring	2003
	Officer Bill McCaffrey	2003
	Officer Art O'Connell	2003
	Officer Heather Welsh	2003
	Officer Jonathan Thomas	2003
	Officer Jason Silvestri	2003
	Officer Nancy Stoddard	2003
	Chief Joseph Baril	2003
	Sgt. Richard Salls	2003
	Officer Richard Friberg	2003
	Officer Michael Stoddard	2003
	Officer Nancy Stoddard	2003

POSITION	NAME	TERM EXPIRATION
Special Police Officers	Officer Sgt. John Manzi	2003
	Sgt. Charles Sabine	2003
	Sgt. Suzie Mulkinen	2003
	Officer Robert Sweet	2003
	Chief David Darrin	2003
	Chief James Thompson	2003
	Officer James Murphy K-9	2003
	Chief Bert DeVarney	2003
Fire Department and Ambulance Officers	Chief Richard Howe (Resigned)	2003
	Asst. Chief Gary LeBlanc ()	2003
	Deputy Chief Tom Snay	2003
	Capt. Jeff Nahkala	2003
	1 <sup>st</sup> . Lt. Tom McCaffrey	2003
	2 <sup>nd</sup> . Lt. Ray Duffy (EMT)	2003
Firefighters	Don Apholt	2003
	Mark Clockedile	2003
	Ron Dolson	2003
	Mike Girardi	2003
	Joe Landyn	2003
	Glen Mardirosian	2003
	Carmen Martone	2003
	Andy Pettyjohn	2003
	Nate Rollins	2003
	Andy Schiltz	2003
	David Skowyra	2003
	Bruce Ware	2003
EMTs	2 <sup>nd</sup> . Lt. Robert Tefft	2003
	Shelley Lam	2003
	Dianne Petrone	2003
	Jim Rollins	2003
	Bruce Ware	2003
Appointments by the Town		
Moderator		
Finance Committee	Larry Biro	2003
	Dan Haynes	2003
	William Storie	2004
	Marna Mucha	2005
	Randall Packard	2005



## TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk's office is open on Mondays from 9:00-11:30 a.m. and on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 p.m. I am available to help with hunting and fishing licenses, registering to vote and provide copies of birth, marriage or death certificates and applications for business certificates are filed in the Town Clerk's office.

As of January 1, 2003 Oakham's Population was 1, 830.

Vital Statistics Totals, July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003

Births 23                      Marriages 05      Deaths 09

### Town Elected Officers

#### Three-Year Terms

#### Selectmen:

Clayton Rice	2004
Jeffrey Young	2005
Timothy Toomey	2006

#### Assessors:

Tabitha Tashjian	2004
Kathleen Usher	2005
Laurianne Bowman	2006

#### Town Clerk:

Christine Mardirosian	2006
-----------------------	------

#### Board of Health:

Rita Olson	2004
Linda Mueller	2005
William Payne	2006

#### Treasurer:

Edna Holloway	2004
---------------	------

#### Library Trustees:

Sarah Jordon	2004
Susan Turnbull	2005
Vacant	2006

#### Moderator:

Christopher Goodhue	2005
---------------------	------

#### Constables:

Marcia C. Casault	2004
Edna Holloway	2004
Laurie Rosenkranz	2004
Lucy Tessnau	2004
Tabitha Tashjian	2004

#### Town Collector:

Susan Carpenter	2005
-----------------	------

#### Cemetery Commissions:

Robert Whyte	2004
Wesley Dwelly	2005
Maude Stone	2006

#### School Committee:

Dr. Thomas Tashjian	2004
Donald Linehan	2006

#### Tree Warden:

Vacant	2006
--------	------

#### Five-Year Term/Planning Board:

Thomas Hughes	2004
Philip Warbasse	2005
Peter Clifford	2006
James Barnhill	2007
Mark Turnbull	2008



### State Primary September 17, 2002

The polls were opened at 7:00 a.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m. by Constable Lucy Tessnau. Election Officer on duty was Christine Mardirosian.

Total number of ballots cast	418
Total number of voters eligible to vote	1102
Total number of people who voted Republican	256
Total number of people who voted Democratic	159
Total number of people who voted Libertarian	3
Total number of people who voted Green party	0

### November 5, 2002 State Election

The polls were opened at 7:00 a.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m. by Constable Lucy Tessnau. Election Officer on duty was Christine Mardirosian.

Total number of ballots cast	752
Total number of names checked on voter list	752
Total number of voters eligible to vote	1126
Total percentage of those eligible who voted	66%

### Question 1 Eliminating State Personal Income Tax

Yes	356
No	366
Blanks	30

### Question 2 English Language Education in Public Schools

Yes	582
No	149
Blanks	21

### Question 3 Taxpayer Funding For Political Campaigns

Yes	143
No	581
Blanks	28

### Annual Town Meeting May 12, 2003

A quorum being present, Moderator Christopher Goodhue called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Article 1: It was voted that the town postpones the Annual Town Meeting until June 16, 2003.

It was passed unanimously on a voice vote, and the meeting adjourned at 7:32.

Annual Town Meeting Votes June 16, 2003

A quorum being present, Moderator Christopher Goodhue called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

- Article 1: It was voted to accept the reports of town officers as printed in the Annual Town Report.
- Article 2: It was voted to elect Nancy Dahn and Eva Grimes as Field Drivers for the ensuing year.
- Article 3: It was voted to hear the results of the election of Town Officers held in May.
- Article 4: It was voted to fix the salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the Town as provided for by Section 108, Chapter 4 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth as follows.

Moderator	150
Board of Selectmen	4,000
Treasurer	5,835
Town Collector	6,520
Assessors	3,520
Town Clerk	4,185
Library Trustees	50
Cemetery Commissioners	75
Board of Health	300

- Article 5: It was voted to raise and appropriate a sum of money, and appropriate \$30,000 from Ambulance Receipts Reserved for appropriation and \$10,000 from Free Cash as is necessary to pay salaries, expenses, and outlays of the several departments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003.

**OPERATING BUDGET**

<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2004 Budget Approved</b>
Board of Health	
Salaries, Elected	300
Expense	850
Recycling Coordinator	300
Sub-Total	<u>1,450</u>
Cemeteries	

Salaries, Elected	
Expense	3,000
Sub-Total	<u>3,075</u>

#### Library

Salaries, Elected	50
Salaries, Part-Time	12,550
Expense	<u>8,190</u>
Sub-Total	<u>20,790</u>

#### Historical Commission

Expense	100
Sub-Total	<u>100</u>

#### Cultural Council

<u>200</u>
------------

#### Parks and Recreation

Expense	<u>5,250</u>
Sub-Total	<u>5,250</u>

#### Education

Quabbin Regional School	
Assessment	950,200
Quabbin Regional School Bond	
Payment	122,054
Vocational School Assessment	<u>105,000</u>
Sub-Total	<u>1,177,254</u>

#### Town Accountant

Salary	11,000
Expense	<u>2,449</u>
Sub-Total	<u>13,449</u>

#### Board of Selectmen

Salaries, Elected	4,000
Salaries, Part-Time	13,000
Expense	<u>2,475</u>
Sub-Total	<u>19,475</u>

---

Insurance and Benefits	<u>79,345</u>
------------------------	---------------

#### Board of Assessors

Salaries, Elected	3,520
Salaries, Part-Time	14,000
Expense	<u>6,294</u>
Sub-Total	<u>23,814</u>

Finance Committee	
Expense	575
Sub-Total	<u>575</u>
Reserve Fund	<u>15,000</u>
Town Collector	
Salary, Elected	6,520
Expense	4,550
Sub-Total	<u>11,070</u>
Treasurer	
Salary, Elected	5,835
Expense	2,470
Sub-Total	<u>8,305</u>
Debt Service	
Municipal Building	49,119
Equipment	30,314
Short Term Interest	2,000
Sub-Total	<u>81,433</u>
Town Report Printing	<u>1,500</u>
Town Hall	
Salaries, Part-Time	3,300
Expense	15,400
Cable Access	100
Sub-Total	<u>18,800</u>
Highway	
Superintendent Salary	43,796
Salaries and Wages	62,076
Expense	45,915
Snow and Ice	36,131
Sub-Total	<u>187,918</u>
<hr/>	
Municipal Buildings Utilities	<u>17,000</u>
Street Lights	<u>3,500</u>
Land Use	
Building Inspector	903
CMRP Assessment	348



Conservation Commission Expense	625
Planning Board Expense	660
Zoning/Appeals Board Expense	375
Sub-Total	<u>2,911</u>

Moderator Salary	<u>150</u>
------------------	------------

Census	
Salaries, Part-Time	720
Expense	<u>1,100</u>
Sub-Total	<u>1,820</u>

Town Clerk	
Salary, Elected	4,185
Expense	<u>1,500</u>
Sub-Total	<u>5,685</u>

Town Elections	
Salary, Registrar	175
Wages, Part-Time	1,800
Expense	<u>400</u>
Sub-Total	<u>2,375</u>

Legal	
Town Counsel	14,000
Tax Title Expense	<u>0</u>
Sub-Total	<u>14,000</u>

Tree Warden	
Salary	200
Expense	<u>1,200</u>
Sub-Total	<u>1,400</u>

Dog Officer	
Salary	3,000
Supplies	<u>600</u>
Sub-Total	<u>3,600</u>

---

Animal Inspector	
Salary	<u>500</u>
Sub-Total	<u>500</u>

Ambulance	
Director Salary	2,760

Wages, Part-Time	13,390
Expense	13,750
Sub-Total	<u>29,900</u>
Dispatch	
Expense	27,690
Sub-Total	<u>27,690</u>
Civil Defense	<u>100</u>
Fire Department	
Chief Salary	2,652
Wages, Part-Time	15,685
Expense	21,630
Sub-Total	<u>39,967</u>
Police Department	
Chief Salary	46,350
Wages, Part-Time	27,690
Expenses and Computer	29,803
Sub-Total	<u>103,843</u>
Council on Aging	
Expense	4,250
Sub-Total	<u>4,250</u>
Veterans Services	
Salary	1,545
Expense	1,300
Sub-Total	<u>2,845</u>
Grand Total Article 7:	<u>1,930,339</u>

## CONSENT WARRANT

The Consent Warrant is intended to expedite the business of Town Meeting by combining routine, non-controversial and predictable articles and seeking in one motion approval on all articles. There will be no debate or discussion unless there is a request to remove an article to be discussed from the "Consent Warrant".

## TOWN OF OAKHAM CONSENT WARRANT MOTIONS

It was voted with one motion to approve Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.

**Article 6: Borrowing in anticipation of revenue**

**Article 7: Transfer proceeds of Cemetery Lots**

**Article 8: Transfer money paid for Perpetual Care**

**Article 9: Accept State Library Grant**

**Article 10: Authorize Selectmen to enter into agreement with Mass. DPW**  
**Article 11: Authorize Selectmen to set compensation**  
**Article 12: Authorize Treasurer to spend Highway Chapter 90 money**  
**Article 13: Board of Health Fees, Chapter 53E 1/2**  
**Article 14: Building Inspector Fees Chapter 53E 1/2**  
**Article 15: Wire Inspections Chapter 53E 1/2**  
**Article 16: Plumbing/Gas Inspections Chapter 53E 1/2**  
**Article 17: Fire Inspections Chapter 53E 1/2**  
**Article 18: Town Clerk Fees Chapter 53E 1/2**  
**Article 19: Town Collector Fees Chapter 53E 1/2**  
**Article 20: Deputy Town Collector Fees Chapter 53E 1/2**  
**Article 21: Dog Officers Fees Chapter 53E 1/2**  
**Article 22: Police Department Pistol Permit Fees Chapter 53E ½**  
**Article 23: Planning Board Fees Chapter 53E ½**  
**Article 24: Conservation Commission Engineering and Advertising Fees Chapter 53E 1/2**

Article 25: It was voted to hear the report of the Library Building Committee.

Article 26: It was voted to transfer \$2,998 from available funds for the necessary 10% of matching funds for a Fire Department Federal Grant.

Article 27: It was voted to permit the Town Collector to enter into compensating balance agreement with Fleet Bank as made under the provisions of Mass General Law Chapter 44, Section 53F for a period of three years.

Article 28: It was voted to permit the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreement with Fleet Bank as made under the provisions of Mass General Law Chapter 44, Section 53F for a period of three years.

Article 29: It was voted to pass over this article GASB 34 Compliance (General Accounting Standards Board, Statement 34).

Article 30: It was voted to transfer from available funds, \$99,000 to purchase a new Dump Truck with a Combination type Dump Body/Sander with Snow Plow and Frame.

Article 31: It was voted to transfer from available funds \$5,260 for funding the Library Fiscal 2004 budget for lending materials, books, audio, visual, periodicals and software.

Article 32: It was voted to carry over any money left in the Fiscal 2003 Treasurer's Foreclosure Account.

Article 33: It was voted to transfer from available funds \$50,000 for the Stabilization Fund.



Article 34: It was voted down by a 2/3 vote not to add to Chapter X of The Town Bylaws; "Section 1.1, All dogs must be restrained from running loose between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m."

Article 35: It was voted to hear the Moderator's appointments to the Finance Committee which were Marna Mucha and Randy Packard.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Results of Annual Town Election, Monday May 19, 2003

Selectmen, 3 year term

Timothy J. Toomey	170
Write-ins	1
Blanks	26

Assessor, 3 year term

Laurianne C. Bowma	95
Write-in Vanessa Landyn	85
Write-ins	2
Blanks	15

Board of Health, 3 year term

Write-in William Payne	25
Write-in	11
Blanks	161

Library Trustee, 3 year term

Write-ins	15
Blanks	182

Town Collector, 3 year term

Christine A. Mardirosian	171
Write-ins	2
Blanks	24

Planning Board, 5 year term

Mark M. Turnbull	174
Blanks	23

Planning Board, 4 Years

James H. Barnhill	160
Write-in	1
Blanks	36

Cemetery Commission, 3 year term

Maude M. Stone	180
Blanks	17

Library Trustee, 2 year term

Susan B. Turnbull	179
Blanks	18

One Hundred ninety-seven of the 1,113 registered voters voted in the Town Election.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Mardirosian  
Oakham Town Clerk



# **GENERAL GOVERNMENT ~~**

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

=====:

**FIRE DEPARTMENT & AMBULANCE**

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**



## FIRE DEPARTMENT & AMBULANCE

During FY 2003 the Fire Department was successful in receiving two grants, one from the State of Massachusetts called the Fire Fighter Public Safety Equipment Grant with a dollar value of \$14,984.00, and the other from the Federal Government called Fire Fighters Grant Program for Fire Fighter Safety with a dollar value of \$56,340.00. Both of these grants were written by Fire Chief Richard B. Howe who at the end of FY 2003 resigned. Richard Howe served the Town of Oakham for a total of 30 years, serving the past eight years as Chief and for the past three years as both Ambulance Director and Fire Chief, for these years of service we thank him. The town also says good-bye to Assistant Chief Gary Le Blanc who served the Town of Oakham for a total of 27 years. Gary held the position of Assistant Chief for the past eight years, prior to that he held the positions of Deputy Chief and Captain. Gary's dedication will be missed.

The Fire Department was called upon a total of 133 times with a break down as follows;

Medical Emergency (Ambulance)	70
Accident with injury	6
Accident with property damage	3
Animal rescue (dog)	1
Loud noise (explosion)	2
Welfare check	2
Bomb threat	1
Fire not classified	12
Report of smoke	1
Motor vehicle accident	25
Mutual aide given	1
Structure fire	4
Public service	1
Car fire	4

We close FY 2003 with the following people among our ranks

Richard Howe, Chief (E.M.T.)  
Gary Leblanc, Asst. Chief (April)  
Tom Snay, Asst. Chief  
Ray Duffy, Deputy Chief (E.M.T.)  
Jeff Nahkala, Captain  
Tom McCaffrey, Lieutenant  
Glenn Mardirosian, Lieutenant  
Don Apholt, Fire Fighter  
John Cornwell, Fire Fighter  
Mark Clockedile, Fire Fighter  
Ron Dolson, Fire Fighter  
Mike Girardi, Fire Fighter

Shelly Lam, E.M.T.  
Joe Landyn, Fire Fighter  
Maral Markosian, E.M.T.  
Diane Petrone, E.M.T.  
Andy Schiltz, Fire Fighter  
Chris Soufleris, E.M.T.  
David Skowyra, Fire Fighter  
Robert Teft, Lieutenant E.M.T.  
Rob Toupin, Junior Fire Fighter  
Tom Ushe, E.M.T.  
Bruce Ware, Fire Fighter E.M.T.  
Chris Houghton, Junior Fire Fighter

Respectfully Submitted  
L. Thomas McCaffrey, Fire Chief



## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Fiscal 2003 was again a busy year for the highway department. The top surface of bituminous concrete was completed on the East Hill/Crawford Road project. The gravel section of East Hill (East) was widened and resurfaced with bituminous concrete to prevent ongoing washout problems. Spencer Road was also resurfaced with a bituminous concrete overlay. Barre Plains and Tomlinson Roads were resurfaced with crushed gravel and approximately 800 lineal feet of 6" sub drain was installed on Barre Plains Road. Other work for the department consisted of cold plating, road edging, regrading gravel roads, road sweeping, roadside mowing, lawn mowing and other various maintenance projects.

### Resurfacing

Crawford Road	2,000 Lineal Feet
East Hill Road	9,000 Lineal Feet
East Hill (East)	500 Lineal Feet
Spencer Road	3,800 Lineal Feet

The winter of fiscal 2003 was a very busy and long one with its first snow falling on October 23, 2002. There were twelve storms from October 23<sup>rd</sup> until December 25, 2002 including the Nor' Easter on Christmas Day. The rest of the winter was just as busy with twenty-eight more plowable and or sanding events.

Respectfully Submitted

C Kevin Currier  
Highway Superintendent

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Oakham Police Department is committed to providing quality police service to the town. I have been a large supporter of the community policing philosophy and strive to operate this department so that it is responsive to the needs of the community. One area was to provide DARE classes to the Oakham Center School, which was not provided in recent years. I have taken the past six months to evaluate the type of police service being provided to Oakham and to identify its strong points and weak points. My fiscal 2004 budget represents a solid base level police service that will allow us to address town issues and the day-to-day workload.

During this past ten months, the number of incidents and calls for service has increased. We have handled 2,051 calls and incidents over the past ten months. Below you will find a breakdown of some specific incidents:

Breaking & Entering	9	Auto Accidents	33
Vandalism	25	Fatal Accidents	2
Missing Person	3	General Disturbances	42
Sexual Assault	5	False 911 calls	17
Assault & Battery	5	Narcotics Investigations	5
Domestic Abuse .	21	Burglar Alarms	34
General Police Service	45	Motor Vehicle Stops	776
Suspicious Activity	25	Disabled Vehicle Assists	27
Arrests	35	Medical/Fire Assists	50
Criminal Summonses	19	Trespassing Complaints	4

As you can see for a small community the department is fairly active. As Oakham grows with new homes and the surrounding towns grow, our department will be handling more traffic issues as well as calls for service. We need to plan for this growth and ensure that Oakham citizens are served with an effective and efficient police department.

This department has been plagued with cruiser problems and other malfunctioning equipment issues. I have been successful in seeking grants and donation to assist the department at a fraction of the cost of replacement. We were able to replace a nonfunctioning cruiser with a 2002 Chevy Blazer cruiser with the help of a local businessman, at no cost to the town. This represents a saving of \$27,000. Also, we secured a Community Policing Grant for \$10,000, Governor's Highway Safety Grant for \$7,800 (\$3,000 for equipment and \$4,800 for enforcement) and a \$15,500 grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety to install an in-house police records management system that will also be linked to the Rutland Dispatch Center. The total amount of donation and grant savings to the town is \$60,300.

I would like to thank the Board of Selectmen, Fire, Highway, School Departments, employees of Town Hall, all boards and particularly the citizens of Oakham for their continued support of this department.

Chief Donald A. Haapakoski

# **GENERAL GOVERNMENT ~**

## **HUMAN SERVICES**

---

**ANIMAL INSPECTOR**

**ARTS COUNCIL / CULTURAL COUNCIL**

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

**BUILDING INSPECTOR/ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

**CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS**

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**COUNCIL ON AGING**

**LIBRARIAN**

**LIBRARY BUILDING COMMITTEE**

**LIBRARY TRUSTEE**

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**PLANNING BOARD**

**PLUMBING & GAS INSPECTOR**

**VETERANS AGENT**

**WIRE INSPECTOR**

**ZONING APPEALS BOARD**



## 2003 ANIMAL INSPECTOR REPORT

				Adult	Young
<b>Cattle</b> (Adult = 2yrs. & Up)					
# Dairy				3	0
# Beef				0	2
# Steers/Oxen				3	0
<b>Goats</b> (Adult=1yr. & Up)				20	7
<b>Sheep</b> (Adult=1yr. & Up)				42	52
<b>Swine</b>					
# Breeders				3	0
# Feeders				2	12
<b>Llamas/Alpacas</b>				10	3
<b>Equines</b>					
#Horses/Ponies				70	0
#Donkeys/Mules				5	0
<b>Poultry</b>					
Chickens	156	Turkey	0	Ratites	0
Waterfowl	15	Game Birds	0		
<b>Rabbits</b>	5				

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Parker  
Inspector of Animals



## ARTS COUNCIL / CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Oakham Cultural Council 2003 fiscal year began in September 2002 with meetings held at the Fobes Memorial Library.

The Council approved \$2,200 in grants which included (for the library) funding for prizes for a short story contest; the annual photo contest entitled Oakham: A Photo Essay; and a short story telling performance. The Council on Aging was given a grant to bring the Otters to the Congregational Church for a Valentine Day concert for the senior citizens of our community.

A grant for Oakham Center School "Earth Balloon" - a 20-foot diameter earth model balloon that students could enter was brought into the school gym. David Knutson, taught groups of 30 students at a time about the earth's history, geography, environmental science, social studies and math.

The Cultural Council also awarded a grant to Bob Thomas, a storyteller/musician/dancer, whose inter-generational performance was held at Oakham Center School during an early spring Saturday night potluck supper. The Barre Players Theatre, Inc. was awarded a grant to give a scholarship to one Oakham youth for a theater workshop that took place on four Saturday's in January and February 2003. The recipient was Brianna Capone.

The Oakham Parks and Recreation committee received a grant for a concert by the Otters. The performance was the kick-off for the Old Tyme Yankee Fair and was, as always, a huge success. Also, T-Bone, a musical act with audience participation was held the day of the Yankee Fair.

Funding for the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences remains at only \$2,000. It was very challenging to choose the recipients for grants. Therefore, we hope the residents of Oakham will read this report and realize the importance of funding. We are grateful for the \$200 the Town has awarded us annually since the year 2000. We will be asking the Town to contribute more so that the programs for our children and families may continue.

And as always, the Cultural Council encourages residents to consider applying for a grant in the arts, humanities, or interpretative sciences. We also enthusiastically welcome new members.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Morse, Chair  
Kyle Carey  
Josie Deschamps  
Celeste Goodhue  
Judy Lane  
Pat Szafarowicz

## BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health continues business as usual regarding the issuance of permits for wells, repair of existing septic systems, installation of new septic systems, food services and local campground facilities.

Nancy Johnston continues as the recycling coordinator. She is available to answer all questions regarding the mandatory recycling ordinance. Once again this year Oakham participated in the annual household hazardous waste collection.

Our meetings are held bi-monthly, the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:30 p.m. Please call any of the members for information or with questions.

Respectfully submitted,

William Payne  
Rita Brenner Olson  
Linda Mueller

=====

## BUILDING INSPECTOR / ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

I hereby submit my report of department activities for the period of July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003.

Permit breakdown:

Single family homes	25	Stoves	1
Pools	1	Certificates of Inspection	8
Foundation only	4	Additions/alterations	8
Change of use	1	Sheds	3
Barns	6	Roofs/ Repairs	4
Decks	8	Garage	6
Tower/ Carrier	1	Demo	2
Inspections	249	Vacant buildings	2
Trainings	10	Zoning issues addressed	5
Cert. of Occupancy	12		

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph L. Sansoucy  
Inspector of Buildings

## CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS

During the Fiscal Year 2003 there were five regular burials and one cremation burial. One single grave lot and two double grave lots were sold. Mowing of all town cemeteries was carried out in the usual manner.

The Town of Oakham's perpetual care listing as of June 30, 2003 is available on request at the Board of Selectmen's office.

Respectfully submitted,

Wesley Dwelly  
Maude Stone  
Robert Whyte

=====

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission held 12 regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. In addition, the members were present at 11 public hearings and performed 14 site visits.

The commission issued 4 Determinations of Applicability's, 4 Certificates of Compliance, 5 Orders of Condition and 1 Enforcement Order. We also received 4 requests for Determinations and 5 Notices of Intent.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Blanchard, chairman  
Donald Jodrey, vice-chairman  
Joyce Megarry, secretary  
Lucy Tessnau, clerk  
Mark Stellato, enforcement officer



## COUNCIL ON AGING

The Council on Aging continued with its mission to identify the total needs of Oakham's elder population, to link services to those needs, and to improve the quality of life of our senior citizens throughout the entire year. The scope of these services included social, educational, health, medical, nutritional, and transport aspects. Early in the season, our survey indicated that there were 140 Oakham households with one or more seniors in residence, with a great diversity of circumstance and needs. Some lived with younger family members; some in shared housing with other seniors; others lived alone.

To identify needs and to plan the appropriate programs, the Council on Aging conducted monthly meetings during the past year. These meetings were held on the third Thursday each month, and were attended by the Council members, the meal site manager, and occasional visitors/observers. These were open meetings with everyone welcome.

During the year, we offered healthy nutritious lunches on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday under the direction of Kim Ahlin, our meal site manager. About 40 meals per week were prepared and served to the seniors in the Senior Center, which is located in the basement area of the Town Hall. In addition, we provided 'Meals-on-Wheels' luncheon service to any town senior citizen who was home bound. A nominal per meal fee was charged.

Throughout the year, the senior center was open from 0930 until 1:30pm during meal days, and from 1pm until 4pm on Wednesdays for socializing, television, jigsaw puzzling, and conversation. Reading material, card playing, board games, & computers were always available for use. Coffee, tea and snacks were provided

Intergenerational programs included weekly contact with 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Oakham Center School who volunteered their assistance with socializing and luncheon service on Tuesdays whenever school was in session.

Monthly programs included evening Bingo w/ refreshments (last Friday each month) with attendance averaging about 25, and blood pressure & pulse rate screening (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday after lunch) provided by a nurse with about 15 seniors availing themselves of this service.

Other monthly programs included lectures (or info sessions) on various aspects of finance, health, legal issues, and scams affecting seniors; lecturers included knowledgeable representatives from the district attorney's office, medical professionals, and income tax preparers. Also monthly, the COA published a Newsletter "**The Herald**".

Our local representative to the General Court in the Statehouse visited three times during the year, affording our seniors the opportunity to discuss areas of concern with him.



During the fall, we offered the annual flu vaccine shots to all town seniors at the Senior Center.

Our annual programs included holiday fruit baskets presented in December to all town senior citizens who were 75 years of age or older. We are grateful to the town Cub Scouts and their Den Mothers who braved the freezing weather to deliver these baskets. After the deliveries, we all enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies in the senior center.

Our trip coordinator, Claudia Lacerte, arranged for a group attendance at Sturbridge Playhouse to see a matinee performance of "A Christmas Carol"; the seniors who attended enjoyed an excellent afternoon.

The Oakham Center School continued their annual tradition by hosting a mid-December Christmas luncheon for the town seniors. We ate in the school cafeteria and were served by the students who had also decorated the tables. After the luncheon, the school students and staff treated us all to an excellent instrument & vocal concert.

Later in December, we had our annual Christmas Party at the Oakham Senior Center, which featured a fine luncheon and gift exchange. State Representative Evangelidis and State Senator Brewer attended. Our past State Representative, Dave Tuttle played Santa Claus, and handed out the gifts. The Goldenaires provided musical entertainment, and led the seniors in Xmas caroling.

Our Valentine's Day Dinner was held at Fellowship Hall in the Oakham Congregational Church on 15 February. Fifty-two seniors attended. The local girl scouts decorated the Hall; and the church members prepared & served the excellent food. Our thanks are extended to all of them. Musical entertainment was provided by 'The Otters', which was funded by a grant from the Oakham Cultural Council. This dinner has been hosted by the Oakham Lions Club for the past several years, but this will be the final Lions Club effort because they are disbanding their Oakham Chapter. We want to express our heartfelt appreciation for their years of service to us and to the community, and to wish them well in the future.

In March, the IRS VITA program provided free Income Tax preparation assistance for all seniors who required it. Some eleven seniors utilized this service.

In April, a new desktop Dell computer and combo printer/fax/copier/scanner were procured, and installed. A separate phone line was obtained to provide on-line Internet service. Our Council Member Bill Kirkham did most of the work. Our e-mail address is CnclOnAg@aol.com

The Council on Aging continued its medical equipment loan program for those seniors who have a temporary requirement. During the year, we loaned out six items, which were returned when not needed.

In July, the Oakham town Police Department hosted a chicken BBQ at Lake Dean Campground Pavilion for town seniors.

A field trip was made to Bay Path Technical High School in Charlton by sixteen seniors who enjoyed a superb luncheon at their restaurant with food prepared and served by the culinary arts class.

Other programs that continued as needed were- -

- Home visits to sick//disabled//shut-ins//

- Hospital & nursing home visits

- Counseling & assistance for Caregivers

- Transport for medical appointments & adult day care

- Flowers & get-well cards for illnesses//accidents//operations

- Condolence cards & funeral attendance

Our thanks to town selectmen and to the people of Oakham for their assistance and their support.

Betty Gaidanowicz, Chairman

Natalie Sokol, co-Chairman

Don Linehan, Secretary

Bill Kirkham, Treasurer

Ann Troy, Correspondence

Claudia Lacerte, Activities Coordinator

## LIBRARIAN

---

The support and planning of the Library Trustees, The Friends of Fobes Memorial Library, and the assistance of our many volunteers, helped us to make it possible to offer a nice variety and number of informative and enjoyable programs for both adults and children this past year. We are also indebted to the Oakham Cultural Council and the Central Massachusetts Regional Library for their help and support.

An unexpected gift, the former Mary and Russell Crombie Homestead, when received, will add great financial help in renovating the basement area which will add much needed space in the building.

We continue to offer a good variety of current best sellers and classics and can usually get whatever we don't have, quite quickly through our inter-loan system, a feature of the CMRL system. Our pre-school story hour is held each Tuesday morning from 10a.m. to 11a.m. and includes stories, crafts and playtime. This program coincides with the days that the elementary school is open. Our summer reading program is geared to youngsters who are able to read, and is a fun yet learning process that is a great way to end the summer.

We offer free use of our computer to the public, and also the use of our copier and fax machine, each for a small donation.

Our hours are: Tuesday 11a.m. to 4:30p.m. and 7p.m. to 9 p.m.;  
Thursday 9a.m. to 4:30p.m. and 7p.m. to 9p.m.  
Saturday 9a.m. to 11a.m.

For more information you may call 508-882-3372 anytime during library hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Maude M. Stone  
Librarian



## LIBRARY BUILDING COMMITTEE

---

The repairs and renovations to the Forbes Memorial Library have continued over the past year. The building committee would like to thank Oakham's taxpayers for so generously supporting the project. We expect to be able to complete the necessary work without any further funding. We would also like to recognize the many local people who have contributed their time and skills to making the project a reality. A new sign donated by Elaine Griffith, recognizing the major donors, has been erected in front of the library.

Phase 1 of the project was completed in August of 2002. The lower level of the library is now ready to be updated as the children's room, meeting and activity space, office, and two handicap-accessible bathrooms. Under Phase II, the inefficient furnace has been replaced with a heating and air conditioning system, the electrical service is being updated to meet code and to support new computers, new plumbing for the bathrooms has been installed. We would like to recognize Mike Russ and Rex Quatrulli for donating their services. This project would not be possible without their contributions and other generous folks in town.

The new basement floor is now being poured and we will begin Phase III of the renovations, the construction of the lower level and linking of the two floors by a new staircase and wheelchair lift. The committee is very pleased with the quality and progress of the work to date. In the very near future the library will be doubled in size and accessible to all.

The Building Committee accepted the resignation of Lee Lajoie last autumn; we thank him for his years of service to the project. Peter Joyce, whose broad knowledge of building techniques and materials has been greatly appreciated, has joined us. We invite you all to stop by the library during the upcoming Yankee Fair and see the renovations in progress.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph Dwelly  
Peter Joyce  
Susan Meyer, Chair  
Tim Toomey  
Susan Turnbull



## LIBRARY TRUSTEES

=====

The Board of Library Trustees met monthly to keep the bills and staff paid and try to provide more for less money. It was a tough year as only two of the three trustees were active. Lisa Lajoie was busy at her new full time teaching job and with three active kids; she didn't have 10 minutes to spare. She was with us in spirit all year through. We were unable to find a replacement person, no one took out nomination papers for the position for fiscal 2004 and finally we wrote a "help wanted" ad to try to lure a third trustee on to the board.

Despite the difficulty in finding a trustee, there is no lack of willing volunteers and the library dozen has grown to be 15. Volunteers now staff the library every Tuesday night and Saturday morning. Come on in and see who the volunteer of the day is!

The library staff and the Trustees presented several cultural/fun opportunities for the town. With the help of the Oakham Cultural Council, a division of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, we offered the ever-successful Summer Reading Program (Origami), a Halloween program with Margaret McCandless (period music and stories), Short Story Contest, and the Fobes Photo Contest.

The Friends hosted a Mime, Lenny Zarconie and the Wright Brothers, for the Holiday Tea. Thanks to the Church for the use of their facilities. After the show we lit the tree, caroled around town and had cookies and hot chocolate in the library. A fun afternoon.

The Robert Wile Children's Art Festival was again a big success. Many thanks to Jocelyn for making this possible. We were technically challenged and the calendars came out a little late - but we began them with April (the month of their release) and they were appreciated by all

The library is now connected to the new well, but we are still need to draw a lot of water through it because it has sat dormant for so long. Water testing awaits it running clear.

The library received \$2,153.07 in State Aid to Public Libraries and the good news is that we can hope to get the same amount again in 2004. The library has been saving this money for the past several years with the permission of the State Board of Library Commissioners and this year \$12,000 was spent toward the new heating system installed as part of the renovation/remolding work in progress.

The Trustees looked in to the availability of funds from the various Library Trusts to assist with the Funding of the library renovation. About \$45,000 is available.

In November C W MARS Inc., our Internet server requested that the Library adopt an Internet Safety Policy and that was done.

Every Town department was asked to provide an ADA assessment for their building. With the renovations, as planned, we passed with flying colors. We are pleased that, for our part, we are making the Town a more barrier free place.

The details of the Crombie Trust are still being worked out. The Trust program has yet to be finalized, but we hope that there will be a small disbursement in 2004. Until such time as we have an idea of how much annual income there is likely to be, we can only dream of how to spend it, but we do feel that the most likely way we will spend it will be for qualified library staff, in the form of an assistant librarian. Because our new two-floor design requires two librarians, we would like to expand our hours and use a volunteer as the second librarian as much as possible. To that end we have been re-evaluating our job descriptions written in 2000 and exploring other libraries job descriptions, qualifications, and pay schedules.

The Finance Committee approved the 2004 budget with minor revision. They divided the operational budget from the book budget, making it a warrant article, because it helped them in their budgetary process. It is rather scary to have your entire book budget out there on a warrant article, but it passed without dissent.

Our life line for all the extras and the building of the library, the Friends of the Fobes Memorial Library, Inc. has passed it's five year provisional period as a 501(c)(3) organization and is now a full fledged tax exempt public charity. Their Income Tax information is on file at the Library as required by law. Many thanks for the new copy machine. It is wonderful!!!

Charter Communication has made available to the library free Internet and cable access as part of their contract with the town that is good for three more years. We are unable to take advantage of it right now because we only have one computer, but we are counting on this opportunity for the newly expanded building.

This is an exciting time for the Trustees. We have the opportunity to forge the plans for the next hundred years within the building. We would like to express our heart felt thanks to the Library Building Committee for their many, many hours of work on our behalf.

Come in and see what we are doing, take out a book or magazine, book on tape for the commute ... we have a lot to offer, please come and use it.

The Board of Trustees  
Nancy Howe, Susan Turnbull, Lisa Lajoie.



## PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

---

The Parks and Recreation Committee carried out many activities during the fiscal year 2003.

In August, swimming lessons were held at Coldbrook Country Club with 50 children attending. Swim instructors were Katie Adams and Meghan Kelly. On Halloween night the children marched in a parade, escorted by both the Oakham Fire and Police Departments from the Town Hall to the center school. They were greeted by Jack-O-Lanterns on the side of the school. Our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday House-Decorating contest was held in December. Prizes of boxwood trees made by Rebecca Delaney were delivered to the winners. In February, many families went to the Boston Fleet Center to see the Celtics (thanks to Sue Carpenter for organizing it). Also in February, we had our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Carnival, which was held, at Pine Acres. Many children and parents participated. There was skating, sliding, ice sculptures, a scavenger hunt, food, a snowmobile poker run and rodeo which was a great success and a campfire. In April, we held our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Ball Roll event, which was enjoyed by all. Many adults and children participated in the day's events. We had assorted activities for the children to do until the balls were ready to drop. We had several winners with the grand prize of \$1,000 going to Tina Watson. In May 50+ children attended the Annual Fishing Derby, held at Pine Acres Campground. After all of the fish were caught and measured, prizes were awarded and a family cookout was held. On Memorial Day a group of children and parents traveled to the town cemeteries on a bus donated by McCarthy Bus Co., to place flags to mark our veteran's graves. The Oakham Fire Department escorted us to the cemeteries. Jeff Nahkala played taps at the cemeteries. This year we were honored to have the Quabbin ROTC and a special presentation was given to Peter Joyce.

We closed out our year in June with the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual OLD TYME YANKEE FAIR activities, which started Friday night with the block party. At the party was a classic car show and "The Otters" provided music. Saturday's activities included a parade, volleyball tournament, doll and bike parade, dog and rabbit shows, rides and amusements, a talent show, and a bonfire. Several new games and contests were introduced. This year's theme was lumberjack games. Despite the weather the fair was a great success. Thanks go out to all our volunteers.

The Parks and Recreation Committee would like to extend special thanks to the Oakham Fire and Police Departments, Oakham Youth Sports, Center School- Parents Advisory Council, The Lions Club and all other town organizations, clubs and citizens for their support.

We're always in need of volunteers for all of these worthwhile events and also need additional members to serve on our committee. Join us and make a difference in our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas McCaffrey

Christine Mardirosian

Christopher Goodhue

Christine Toomey

Patrick Carey

## REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

=====

We are pleased to submit this report of the Oakham Planning Board for Fiscal Year 2003 [7-1-02 through 6-30-03]. Regularly scheduled meetings are held at the Town Hall, on the third Monday of each month. Additional and rescheduled meetings are always posted in advance, in accordance with the Massachusetts Public Meeting Law. Legal notices for public hearings are published in the Worcester Telegram and the Barre Gazette; public hearing notices are also posted at the Town Hall, the Post Office, and the Fobes Memorial Library.

### **Special Permits**

Responding to requests for Special Permit uses addressed in the Town Bylaws, the application and hearing process resulted in the approval of three new Special Permits for businesses, one of which was appealed by an abutter. Two Special Permits were approved for removal of gravel, one from a two-acre residential site off South Road, and the other for a fourteen-acre site along North Brookfield Road. Reassignment of a communications tower Special Permit was approved.

### **ANR / "Approval Not Required" Lot Plans**

Six ANR survey plans were presented to the Board for review, creating a total of nine new road-frontage lots. Each plan was in compliance with the Town's subdivision bylaw requirements for frontage and area, and endorsed by the Board members as mandated by state law.

### **Subdivisions**

A proposed nineteen-lot subdivision on Old Turnpike Road went through the public hearing and engineering review process, and was approved.

A previously approved fifteen-lot subdivision on Crawford Road approached completion in spring.

A proposed ten-lot subdivision on North Brookfield Road started into the public hearing and engineering review process, but was disapproved in May 2002 because the state-mandated time limit for Planning Board action would otherwise have lapsed without a request from the applicant for time extension, resulting in automatic approval with no town-imposed conditions. Rather than reapply, the applicant filed an appeal through the court system, requiring Town Counsel's involvement.

### **Pre-existing, non-conforming lots**

This year the Town discovered that "grandfathered" protection of lots which predate the 1976 bylaw change to three acres lapsed in 1983 for lots held in common ownership. Implications are being studied by Town Counsel.

Residents' written comments to the Planning Board are always welcome.  
Respectfully submitted,

Phillip Warbasse, Tom Hughes, Peter Clifford, Jim Barnhill, Mark Turnbull



## **PLUMBING & GAS INSPECTOR**

A total of nine (9) gas and thirty-(30) plumbing permits were issued from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003.

The Plumbing & Gas Inspector made Sixty-eight (68) inspections during this period.

Respectfully submitted,

Byron A. Carpenter  
Plumbing and Gas Inspector

=====

## **VETERANS' AGENT**

During the year 2003 there were several inquires concerning services for veterans but all in all, it was a relatively quiet year. Several veterans passed away this year and we have placed flag markers on their graves. If anyone knows of a veteran's grave that is missing a marker please contact me so that I may place a marker at his or her grave.

Blue Star service banners were presented to ten Oakham families who have members serving in the armed forces. The Board of Selectmen along with Senator Stephen Brewer and myself presented the banners to the families in appreciation of the sacrifices they are making. Banners were presented to, James & Jasia Albano, Shirley Bunarowski, Betty Gaidenowicz, Don & Dorothy Jodray, Ernest & Karen Jolin, John & Katherine Kennedy, Clayton Rice, Natalie Sokol, William & Kathy Usher.

Respectfully submitted,

William H. Mucha  
US AF 1967-1971

WIRE INSPECTOR

During the past year there were a total of 67 permits taken out to do electrical work in Oakham. They were for the following:

28	New Homes	8	New/temporary Services
11	Additions/renovations	5	Swimming Pools
6	Burglar Alarm systems	6	Misc. (appliances etc.)
2	Garages/Barns	1	Cell Tower Installation

I made a total of 156 inspections of these jobs.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis delaGorgendiere

=====

ZONING APPEALS BOARD

The ZBA received 2 requests for variances with regards to set back requirements. A hearing was held for each request. The Board issued 1 approval and 1 denial for variances this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy Tessnau, chair  
Carol Spinney, vice chair  
Gunther Mueller, clerk

# **SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION**

---

**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**QUABBIN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

**QUABBIN REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**OAKHAM CENTER SCHOOL**

**ANNUAL RATE OF REGULAR COMPENSATION**

一、

二、

三、

四、

五、

六、

七、

八、



## ***QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT***

Barre • Hardwick • Hubbardston • New Braintree • Oakham

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Maureen M. Marshall, Superintendent of Schools

Cheryl A. Duval, Director of Finance

R. Cherie Majoy, D.Ed., Director of Special Services

### **OAKHAM CENTER SCHOOL**

Duncan Stewart, Principal

### **QUABBIN REGIONAL MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL**

Bernie Audette, High School Dean of Administration & Management

Susanne Musnicki, Middle School Dean of Administration & Management

### **2003 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Dr. Richard Allan	Barre
Susan Benedict	Hubbardston
Richard Cushing	Oakham
Fran Gromelski	Barre
Pam Hinckley	Hardwick
Barbara Hubbard	Hubbardston
Edward Leonard	Hubbardston
James Mazik	Hardwick
Daniel O'Brien	Barre
George Richardson	Barre
Dr. Thomas Tashjian	Oakham
Peggy Thompson	New Braintree
Lee Wolanin	Barre
Cheryl Wolfe	Hardwick

### **2003 SCHOOL COMMITTEE OFFICERS**

Chair, Edward Leonard

Vice-chair, George Richardson

Executive Secretary, Reneé Markiewicz

Treasurer, Ronald Christensen

# QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT 2003

The individual school reports within this publication include considerable information about specific school accomplishments and events at the elementary, middle and high schools. Therefore, the district report is devoted to an explanation of the fiscal crisis that threatens to diminish educational quality within the Quabbin Regional School District.

The 2003 calendar year presented the school district with a number of challenges for the Quabbin Regional School District. Perhaps the most significant and difficult to address was the financial challenge created by a sharp decrease in school funding at the state level. This funding decrease was the result of a national economic recession that left the state of Massachusetts grappling with a billion dollar budget gap at the state level. In response to this serious economic reality, the Massachusetts legislature reduced significantly, not only funding for public education and regional school transportation, but also local aid payments to cities and towns. These financial factors created a sort of "perfect storm" that left local municipalities unable to meet the economic demands created by the state's inability to fund public schools at a level sufficient to maintain the service levels enjoyed during previous school years.

While the five towns within the school district worked hard to fill the economic gap created by decreasing state revenues to schools, their efforts were thwarted by the provisions of Proposition 21/2 and sharp decreases in local aid payments from state sources. In response, both the towns and school district dipped deeply into reserve accounts in an effort to stave off devastating reductions in the school district budget. Additionally, all staff members within the district voted to accept a 1 per cent salary increase and in doing so provided the school district with the ability to maintain staffing levels nearly equivalent to the previous school year. It should also be noted that administrative staff members refused higher salary increases even though salary increases in excess of 1 per cent had been previously negotiated. Clearly, without the selfless efforts of the entire staff within the school district and the member towns, many employee lay offs within the school district would have been necessary. Such a reduction-in-force would have made it impossible to offer Quabbin students the educational programs they sorely need and clearly deserve.

Admittedly, financial challenges, like the one explained here, can be overwhelming because they are not confined to a single year. Instead, they last a number of years and ultimately compromise our ability to offer all children the quality and quantity of school programs that the state curriculum



frameworks and accountability programs like the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) require. While this fact is not debatable, it urges those of us responsible for the education of our children to work ever harder and longer on each student's behalf. The state might financially short change our towns and the schools in which each of us takes pride, but we must not short change the students who depend upon us to ensure the quality of their future. Those working in the school district are ever mindful of the need to fulfill this important responsibility.

Our children will grow and enter a world that is decidedly different than the one into which we were thrust some number of years ago. We are preparing our students for a global marketplace where they will be required to compete with an ever expanding peer group. If we fail to provide them with the skills and knowledge to successfully compete, we have failed, not only them, but a nation frightened by a global economy that steals not only our jobs, but our self confidence. Few seem to realize that the latter is a far more significant loss.

The students who attend the schools of the Quabbin Regional School District arrive each day without much thought about how expensive their education is. They think too little about the sacrifices made by those within the community who fund their schools. They sometimes fail to take their classroom work as seriously as we think we did when we sat in a classroom so many years ago. Like us at their age, they are unaware of the future challenges that we will face. Like us at their age, they seem to take all that is available to them for granted. And, like us at their age, they have a community committed to their success and mindful of the fact that they will ultimately be responsible, not only for the education of the next generation, but for the care of the generation that precedes it.

Maureen M. Marshall  
Superintendent of Schools



**QUABBIN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
END OF YEAR REPORT  
2002-2003 SCHOOL YEAR**

The 2002-2003 school year was an exciting year that marked the transition of the new administrative team as we began our work together during the summer preceding this school year. The year was filled with some exciting faculty work in the areas of student achievement, school climate, student discipline, and curriculum and instruction. We also saw many examples of student achievement in academics, the arts, athletics, and other co-curricular areas.

**OPENING OF SCHOOL**

I would like to recognize all faculty and staff of the high school for a wonderful opening this year. Special thanks need to be given to the members of the facilities department who, as always, performed above and beyond the call of duty and had the building and grounds in immaculate condition. Thanks must also be given to the members of the secretarial staff who prepared countless documents, packets, and schedules so that the faculty and students were well prepared and ready to begin work when they arrived.

We opened school this year with a total of 1,001 students in the high school. That represents an increase of 39 students from the previous year. The breakdown by class is as follows:

Grade	Size of Class
9	271
10	280
11	223
12	227

On August 27<sup>th</sup> we once again hosted our orientation program for incoming grade 9 students. This program was again a success as 80% of the incoming class attended with their parents. Many parents expressed how pleased they were with the faculty presentations and how much they appreciated the faculty’s willingness to put on such a worthwhile program.

We welcomed a number of new employees at the high school who replaced staff that retired, resigned, or took a new position within the district:

- Paul Adams, English
- Beth Bryant, Dean of Students and Director of Music
- Sherry Burkle, Math
- Dr. Mark Caron, School Psychologist
- Jason Duncan, English
- Cynthia Esielionis, Guidance
- Catherine Graham, Secretary
- Bernadette Harris, Spanish
- Tracy Kelley, Media Aide
- Ernest Littizzio, Jr., English
- Diane McMorro, Health
- Eugene Rich, Math
- Kevin Sullivan, Math

This year we implemented curriculum changes as the computer applications course has moved to the middle school and we have replaced it in the high school with a grade 9 health piece that corresponds to the requirements of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. We continue to work towards modifying the social studies curriculum to align with the latest version of the frameworks. This alignment resulted in no curriculum changes for this school year, but our faculty in this department spent time working on a new course and other curriculum changes that will take place in future school years.

## **FACULTY AND STAFF COMMITTEE WORK**

This year was marked by a strong focus on faculty and staff committee work. During this school year, we formed several faculty committees that worked on a number of initiatives, many of which were related to the recommendations made by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) in their accreditation report based on their visit to our school in the fall of 2001, as well as other initiatives that came from faculty deliberation as well as from discussion with students and parents.

Specific faculty committees were formed and worked on the following issues: School Climate, Student Failures, Student Attendance and Behavior, Class Rank, Student Honors Research Projects, and NEASC Evaluation Follow-up. The work of these committees has resulted in a number of changes that will be implemented during the next school year. We certainly hope to keep this level of faculty engagement and involvement as we continue to work in a collaborative way with students and parents and hopefully make Quabbin a better place as a result of our collective efforts.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

The High School Council met several times during the course of the year. The council reviewed the progress made toward meeting the goals of the 2001-2002 school improvement plan and developed a school improvement plan for the 2002-2003 school year. In addition, the council also worked to review the Student Handbook changes, as well as review the FY 2004 budget and its impact on the high school. As always, school council meetings are open to the public and we encourage anyone who is interested in serving on the council to call the high school office and make their interest known.

## **Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS)**

The Class of 2003 was the first class that was required to pass both the Mathematics and English Language Arts tests as a prerequisite for graduation. At the time of graduation, 100% of the students who were members of the class when the class first took the exam their sophomore year had passed both of the tests.

During this school year we received the results for the members of the Class of 2004 who had taken the exams during the previous school year (May 2002) as 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. The results for those tests are as follows with the last two years included for comparison purposes:



MCAS RESULTS REVIEW  
PERCENTAGE BREAK DOWN

FAILING			NEEDS		PROFICIENT		ADVANCED	
QRHS STATE			QRHS	STATE	QRHS	STATE	QRHS	STATE
ELA								
2002	6%	14%	21%	27%	49%	40%	25%	19%
2001	7%	18%	25%	31%	49%	35%	20%	15%
2000	33%	34%	32%	30%	32%	29%	3%	7%
MATH								
2002	12%	25%	40%	31%	31%	24%	17%	20%
2001	11%	25%	35%	30%	38%	27%	15%	18%
2000	41%	45%	29%	22%	20%	18%	11%	15%

The MCAS test was again given this May. Students in grade 10 took tests in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, and a tryout in Science/Technology. Also, some grade 9 students also took a Science/Technology tryout exam.

No Child Left Behind Act

We continue to work on understanding and implementing the various components of the sweeping piece of federal education legislation named the *No Child Left Behind Act*. This spring all parents received a School Report Card for their child’s school as well as for the district. This new reporting vehicle is the first piece in a complex accountability plan that all school districts must put in place. Over the coming school years parents and community members will see a variety of other programs developed and implemented to address the sweeping mandates established by this law.

Student Accomplishments

This year also saw a number of students being recognized for their outstanding achievements in a variety of areas. Below you will find a listing of many of these students. I apologize for missing any student who was also recognized during this school year; the omission is purely accidental and is not meant to not recognize or diminish their achievements.

- Katherine Saari has been named a finalist in the 2003 National Merit Scholarship Program. Katherine joins a very select group of 16,000 academically talented high school students from across the country.
- Matthew McQuaid won this year’s Rensselaer Medal. The Rensselaer Medal, the oldest prize of its kind in the United States, is awarded at 2,700 secondary schools throughout North America, Latin America, Europe, and Asia. This award is given to students who have distinguished themselves as the school’s most promising math and science student. Each medalist who is accepted and subsequently enrolls at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute receives a scholarship of \$60,000.
- Congratulations to the 57 grade 11 students who are eligible for the Koplik Certificate of Mastery based on their grade 10 MCAS performance. The Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Award is for high achieving high school students. To qualify as a candidate for the Certificate of Mastery, a student must score "Advanced" (260-280) on at



least one grade 10 MCAS test subject, and score at least "Proficient" (240-259) on the remaining sections of the grade 10 MCAS.

- Congratulations to the following Quabbin Regional High School Students for earning recognition for their excellent work in the 2003 Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards.

Student	Award
David Correia, II	Honorable Mention Portfolio
Joanna Derzius	Nomination
Elizabeth Flynn	Honorable Mention
Jonathan Hayward	Gold Key
Megan Norden	Honorable Mention Portfolio
Valerie Ouellet	Nomination
Ariana Wrobel	Honorable Mention

- The Senior Awards Night ceremony was held on June 4<sup>th</sup> and many wonderful awards were presented that evening. Special recognition needs to be given to our Valedictorian, Nicholas Borelli III and our Salutatorian, Brian Czabaj.
- Many of our music students earned awards for their outstanding achievements. Below is a highlighting of some of the honors which have been earned:
  - Louis Armstrong Jazz Award - Elizabeth Johnson
  - John Philip Sousa Band Award - Elizabeth Johnson
  - Robert Shaw Choral Award - Chris Seith
  - Severino D'Annolfo Band Award - Bethany Guilbault/Laurene Belsito
  - National Choral Award - Amber Bowles
  - Music Department Award – Elizabeth Johnson
- On Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, our underclassmen awards ceremony was held. That evening many awards were presented honoring students' academic accomplishments in a variety of subject areas. Special recognition needs to be given to the following students for their special awards of distinction:
  - Zoe Dowd, Smith College Club of Worcester Book Award
  - Rebecca Ploof, Rensselaer Medal Book Award
  - Jill Thompson, University of Massachusetts Amherst Alumni Association Book Award
  - Sara Zglobicki, Harvard-Radcliffe Club of Worcester Book Award and Middlebury College Book Award

### **Extra- and Co-Curricular Activities**

Many thanks need to be given to our coaches and advisors who work with our students in a variety of capacities beyond the school day to provide experiences that are educational and personally enriching for our students. As usual, our athletic teams and school groups have achieved many goals and earned many

accolades this year. The following is a brief listing of some of the wonderful accomplishments shared by these groups:

- In October the Drama Club put on both their fall production and their Halloween radio show. Both events were well attended and the students involved did a wonderful job. Many thanks must go to Steve Zaorski, this year's faculty advisor, for his dedication and hard work.
- The music department has been very busy this year and held many concerts throughout the year. As always, our students did a wonderful job and showed all who attended that their hard work certainly paid off. Our many thanks go to our music department faculty whose tireless dedication to the students is certainly appreciated by all in our school community.
- Special thanks must also be given to both the high school music department faculty and students as well as to the members of Quabbin Pro Musica. On November 6-10 the musical *The Pajama Game* was presented to the delight of all who attended. The talent that was showcased during this event was truly amazing. Thanks to all who participated in this very special annual event.
- On November 7<sup>th</sup> the N.J.R.O.T.C. unit held its annual inspection. Commander David A. Crandall, the Area Manager, visited Quabbin and conducted the inspection. During the exit interview, Commander Crandall had all positive things to say about our students, the unit, and the N.J.R.O.T.C. faculty members we have on staff. Many thanks and congratulations to our N.J.R.O.T.C. students who always represent our school so well and to Colonel Pyle and Commander Magnino for all their extra efforts.
- Congratulations and thanks to our athletes, athletic department staff, and coaches for a very exciting and competitive year. Some of the highlights include:
  - 398 high school students participated in athletic programs.
  - Three teams were Midland-Wachusett League Champions:
    - Girls' Cross Country
    - Boys' Basketball
    - Wrestling.
  - Teams qualifying for post-season tournament play were:
    - Field Hockey
    - Boys' Soccer
    - Girls' Soccer
    - Boys' Basketball
    - Girls' Basketball
    - Winter Cheering
    - Softball.
  - The following teams had student/athletes recognized with All-Star honors:
    - Football, Boys' Soccer, Girls' Soccer, Field Hockey, Boys' Cross Country, Girls' Cross Country, Boys' Basketball, Girls' Basketball, Boys' Indoor Track, Girls' Indoor Track, Wrestling, Softball, Boys' Tennis, Girls' Track and Boys' Track.



- Quabbin also received the Sportsmanship Award for Division B of the Midland-Wachusett League.
- Congratulations to all the students who participated in this year's Envirothon competition, as well as Mrs. Rebecca Bottomley and Ms. Stacey Hill, the coaches for the Envirothon Team. The team earned a first place finish in the presentation portion of the event, received a Silver Award for community investigation, and took fifth place overall. The event was held on Thursday, May 1 at Overlook Farm in Rutland and had about 500 high school students representing about 36 different schools. The student members of the team were Joe Paquin, grade 11, Dan Paradise, grade 11, Bethany Downey, grade 11, Sara Zglobicki, grade 11, Crystal Rose Fales, grade 12, and Lia Martin, grade 12.
- Congratulations also need to be given to the Quabbin N.J.R.O.T.C. unit for earning the designation of Distinguished N.J.R.O.T.C. Unit for the upcoming 2003-2004 school year. This designation is awarded annually to schools whose NJROTC program ranks in the top 30 percent of the programs in each area. Competing units are ranked according to degree of excellence attained in administration, academic performance, military proficiency, and host school support. Special thanks to Colonel Pyle and Commander Magnino who give so much time, effort, energy, and personal commitment to this program.

### Class of 2003 Graduation

A very successful week of senior activities concluded with the Graduation Ceremony on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> on Alumni Field. The graduating class, and our estimated 1,700 guests, enjoyed beautiful weather for this ceremony.

As an overview of the 218 graduates of the Class of 2003, I present the following:

180	Or 83% of the class	Plan to continue their education
121	Or 56% of the class	Plan to attend a 4-year college
59	Or 27% of the class	Plan to attend a 2-year college or institution
26	Or 12% of the class	Plan to enter the work force full time
12	Or 6% of the class	Plan to enter the military

At the Senior Night Awards Ceremony we presented scholarships that are valued at \$843,156 for next year and \$1,364,128 over a four-year period. These impressive figures are a true testament to the hard work and dedication put forth by members of the Class of 2003.



## **Conclusion**

On behalf of all of the faculty and staff of Quabbin Regional High School I thank all the members of the Quabbin community for their continued support of our school and all of its programs. We feel that the 2002-2003 school year was great and we look forward to even greater achievements in the school year to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernard P. Audette  
Dean of Administration and Management

# **QUABBIN REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## **END OF YEAR REPORT**

### **2002-2003**

During the summer of 2002, a summer school program was offered at Quabbin Regional Middle School. Funding was provided by a state grant for academic support programs for students entering grades 4-8. Under the direction of Michael Groner and Toni Musnicki, fourteen teachers offered creative instruction in math and English and provided enrichment activities which included a pond study, several food projects, and a guided field trip to Barre Falls Dam. In all, sixty students attended this very successful program.

Under the leadership of Martha Femino, Dean of Academic Affairs, our faculty has continued to examine and adjust the curriculum to align with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Major changes were implemented in social studies classes this year. Grade eight introduced a new course in World History I. The grade seven course was changed to World Geography. To welcome students and parents to the Middle School, orientation nights were held for seventh grade on Monday, August 26 and for eighth grade on Tuesday, August 27. Student schedules were distributed and a mock schedule was followed so that parents and students could meet teachers and learn classroom expectations.

On Tuesday, August 27, we welcomed 289 seventh graders. Wednesday, August 28 saw the arrival of 298 eighth graders. This made the total Middle School enrollment 587 students as of opening day.

The Middle School has continued its community involvement through "Trick or Treat for UNICEF", and donations of canned goods, collected at Middle School dances, to local food banks. Grade seven social studies teachers are coordinating a drive to collect aluminum tabs from beverage cans to benefit the Shriners Orthopedic Hospital in Springfield and Shriners Burns Hospital in Boston. In June of 2003, 1.6 million tabs were collected.

Eighth grade students had several special speakers and trips during the school year. Mrs. Sunnie Epstein, a Holocaust survivor, spoke about the history of the Holocaust and hate crimes. This was coordinated with literature studies in English classes. The Chamber Repertory Theater brought their elaborate sets to Quabbin on March 7 to present four short stories. Some middle school students were given the opportunity to assist with stage set up and to watch the production from the wings. On June 11, 2003, the grade eight band traveled to Boston to play at the State House. After performing they were given a tour. The eighth grade also experienced a field trip to the State Police Academy in New Braintree where students participated in a program that included a K-9 demonstration, an obstacle course, and a gang unit. On Monday, April 14, 2003, 212 students and their chaperones traveled to Washington, D.C. Their trip included the Smithsonian Museums, the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, the Holocaust Museum, a trip to



National Zoo, the Twilight Tattoo, and a night bus tour of Washington, D.C. Seventh grade special events included a December 19, 2002 trip to Symphony Hall in Springfield to attend the Chamber Repertory Theatre production of five classic short stories that had been read and studied in English classes. Yoko Kawashima Watkins, author of So Far From the Bamboo Grove, spent November 22 visiting with our social studies classes discussing her life as a young Japanese girl who was forced to flee North Korea at the end of World War II. May 22 and 23 was the date for the grade seven overnight. Because of the change in the Curriculum Frameworks, the theme of this year's event included international music, art, and cultural activities. Homeroom competition was held in the gym and students participated in a talent show for their peers. June 10 was the date for the New York City field trip. The trip included a visit to the United Nations and a Circle Line Cruise.

In December, we were informed that Erin Stevens, grade seven social studies teacher, was selected as the recipient of the 2003 Donald V. Salvucci Award of the Northeast Regional Conference for Social Studies. This award is given annually to a K-12 classroom teacher who mirrors Mr. Salvucci's excellence in teaching citizenship.

In January, eighth grade student Elizabeth Hattenburg was named a winner in the annual Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. essay contest. Her essay, a poem entitled "The Sovereignty Painter", was included in a bound booklet and distributed at the community breakfast held in Worcester to honor Dr. Martin Luther King. Beth received a certificate of recognition and a \$50.00 U.S. Savings Bond.

Spring Academics Plus, an after school program, began on Tuesday, March 11. Seventy students were enrolled in this program, which ran for twenty sessions prior to the spring MCAS. This program was funded by a state grant, which provided additional late buses on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

On April 8, 2003 students in grade seven completed the long composition portion of the MCAS tests. The testing continued on May 13 with grade seven completing English/Language Arts and grade eight taking Mathematics and Science & Technology/Engineering.

For the third consecutive year, seven grade eight students and two grade seven competed in the MATHCOUNTS competition. Although we did not place in the top three positions to qualify for state competition, much valuable experience was gained.

May and June saw numerous awards and honors programs. The Honors Breakfast, prepared and served by staff, honors students who achieved honor roll status for three marking. This program included a brief awards presentation for outstanding grade seven and eight students. June 13 was the grade eight graduation program, which due to inclement weather was held in the high school gymnasium. This ceremony marked the passage of students from grade eight to grade nine.



The staff of the middle school would like to thank the Quabbin Regional School District community for the support that has been given to our students and our school.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susanne R. Musnicki  
Dean of Administration and Management

**OAKHAM CENTER SCHOOL  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL  
2002/2003**

=====

School year 2002/2003 was a constant emotional roller coaster. Happenings in the classroom often mirrored world events and those of us at the Oakham Center School learned we were not immune to bad things happening. At graduation time it was amazing to look back and realize what our sixth graders had experienced in their relatively short elementary school years. Their educational journey was filled with surprises, twists, turns and hairpin curves. They experienced the wonder of learning to read, the satisfaction of finishing long term projects, the tragic sadness of losing a classmate, the confusion and disappointment of losing a teacher, the euphoria of entering a new millennium, the horror of September 11<sup>th</sup>, and the fear of a country at war. That seems to be an awful lot for children to endure. Thankfully, we live, work and go to school in Oakham; a town that comes together in every positive sense to support our children. Staff and community can take pride in our children and in the way in which we joined together to support them through the difficult times.

As always, our school was a very busy place. Students and staff engaged in a wide variety of activities ranging from MCAS preparation to school plays. Among the notable happenings of the school year were:

- Students, with the help of fifth grade teachers Helen Poirier and Karen Miller, produced another unique “Memory Book”. The Memory Book this year was dedicated to Mrs. Helen Bechan, our long time Special Education Aide. Helen retired in September. The dedication of the yearbook to her was a fitting tribute for her many years of service to the children of the Oakham Center School. The Editors of this year’s Memory Book were Zachery Ryding, Melissa Derrick and Rebecca Gibree as the Assistant Editor.
- For the 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, students of grade six participated in a weeklong trip to the ocean. “Nature’s Classroom”, provides our sixth grade students with a wonderful culminating activity to their first seven years of schooling. Sixth grade teachers Michelle Zalneraitis and Steve Huard once again did a great job fund raising, planning and organizing this trip. Accompanying this year’s class were parents Nancy McKenzie, Chuck Delaney, and Bob Lajoie. We would like to thank them for providing us with wonderful chaperones.
- The Parents Advisory Council once again functioned as an important component of our school. PAC hosted a variety of programs and activities that included the Annual Spring Dance, sponsorship of two \$250 scholarships to Oakham residents, numerous field trips, sponsorship of the Red Cross Babysitting Courses, the Holiday Marketplace for students, and Classroom Charity Jars. A special treat provided by the PAC this year for students, K-6 was a visit by the *Earth Balloon*, a giant balloon replica of the earth that students enter through a “zipper in the Pacific Ocean”!

- Fifth grade Social Studies Teachers Helen Poirier and Karen Miller once again organized a Saturday “Trip to Boston” for students of grades 4 & 5. The students departed by train from Worcester and spent the day in Boston exploring historical sites before returning by rail to Worcester.
- The Oakham Police Department sponsored the DARE program for sixth grade students. Officer Shelly Lam did a wonderful job as our DARE Officer.

Staff and students thank the Oakham community for creating a wonderful place to live and work.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Duncan L. Stewart,  
Principal



**QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
EMPLOYEE SALARY CONTRACTS 2003-2004**

Employee	Amount
ADAMIAK, MELISSA M	\$41,080.00
ADAMS, CHERYL S	\$64,483.00
AFONSO, NANCY J	\$44,924.80
ALLAIN-THOMAS, D.	\$41,695.00
ALLEN, ANN M	\$16,939.00
AMIDIO, MARY C	\$27,164.00
ANDERSON, MARGARET	\$20,257.00
ANDERSON, MAUREEN	\$49,124.80
ANDERSON, PATRICIA	\$56,876.00
APPLETON, JANE M	\$60,489.00
ARNOLD, LUCINDA A	\$50,865.00
AUDETTE, BERNARD P	\$75,558.10
AUDETTE, DENISE L	\$17,858.00
BALSER, MELANIE A	\$18,764.00
BALZANO, STEPHANIE	\$8,439.50
BANVILLE, ANNE M	\$16,939.00
BARNES, CLARE H	\$42,016.00
BARRINGER, EVAN M	\$37,751.00
BARRINGER, JANIS A	\$43,837.00
BART-RABER, KERRY	\$44,490.40
BEAUDET, KRISTINE A	\$52,870.00
BEAUDRY, DANIELLE	\$52,870.00
BEAUREGARD, LISA A	\$48,269.00
BEAUREGARD, S.	\$45,640.00
BENOUSKI, DOREEN	\$57,817.00
BERNARD, ROBIN L	\$27,737.00
BERTHIAUME, GAIL L	\$25,474.40
BERTHIAUME, VAL.	\$19,785.00
BETTEZ, ERNEST A	62,983.00
BLASZCZYK, VIRGINIA	\$52,738.00
BOHIGIAN, EILEEN O	\$57,567.00
BOISSY, GAIL A	\$9,856.59
BOLGER, BRENT A	\$42,753.00
BOLGER, SANDRA J	\$19,262.00
BORONSKI, CHESTER	\$59,957.00
BOTTOMLEY, R.	\$46,955.00
BOURGEOIS, NANCY M	\$64,204.00
BRANDON, C.L.	\$70,665.66
BRAY, ELECIA C	\$41,927.00
BRAY, MARSHA M	\$58,931.00
BREARLEY, DEBORAH	\$30,015.20
BRENNAN, JANIE	\$13,596.00
BREWER, CHRISTINE	\$48,635.00
BRIAND, ANNE MARIE	\$19,235.00
BRISTOL, CHRISTINE	\$57,567.00
BROWN, THEODORE T	\$65,979.84
BROWNE, KIM A	\$55,613.00
BRYANT, ELISABETH	\$67,738.30
BURKLE, SHERRY L	\$36,434.00
BURNETT, WILLIAM A	\$62,420.60
CAPURSO, JANE M	\$53,147.00

CAREY, KYLE J	\$59,069.00
CARLIN, ALBERT J	\$67,760.00
CARLSON, CHRIS.B	\$37,751.00
CARLSON, KIMBERLY	\$16,939.00
CARON, MARK D	\$52,406.00
CASTRIOTTA, MARK	\$43,837.00
CASTRIOTTA, M.	\$56,394.00
CASTRIOTTA, W.B.	\$45,446.00
CHABOT, JACQUELINE	\$38,317.00
CHAPMAN, SUANN Q	\$52,870.00
CHASE, MAUREEN L	\$43,837.00
CHIASSON, LINDA M	\$59,069.00
CHRISTENSEN, RON.P.	\$10,453.50
CHROBAK, KAREN E	\$43,632.00
CIAVOLA, ELLEN M	\$18,764.00
CILLEY, PAUL D	\$59,440.00
CIRELLI, K.M.	\$18,764.00
CLARK, BLYTHE L	\$36,434.00
CLOUGH, BARBARA J	\$45,075.00
COATES, MARIE A	\$16,939.00
COLBY, BEVERLY A	\$35,578.90
COLLINS, JOANNE L	\$57,976.00
COMO, MARY L	\$45,640.00
CONSOLMAGNO, T.J.	\$28,787.00
CONTI, BARBARA A	\$62,718.55
COONS, KRISTEN H	\$60,239.00
COPPOLINO, SR, P.J.	\$15,530.40
CRANSTON, F.J.	\$45,450.00
CRANSTON, K.A.	\$26,817.52
CRAWFORD, BARB. A	\$12,839.20
CREEDEN, CHERYL W	\$57,567.00
CRESTO, GLENDA G	\$52,120.00
CURE, SONIA A	\$64,204.00
CUSHING, HELEN E	\$49,499.00
DAHART, HAROLD N	\$25,678.40
DALVE, JOHN R	\$56,876.00
DAUWALTER HARMON	
ROBIN	\$60,239.00
DAVIAU, CHRIS M.	\$59,069.00
DEACETIS, SANDRA A	\$12,417.00
DEGNAN, MARTHA E	\$42,459.00
DERR, CHERYL C	\$49,360.00
DESCHAMPS, DAVID A	\$60,239.00
DESILETS, K.A.	\$42,459.00
DEVINE, GREGORY J	\$55,406.00
DEXTRADEUR, D.M.	\$57,817.00
DIBENEDETTO, A.J.	\$37,751.00
DICKSON, PAMELA J	\$48,269.00
DIETRICH, BARBARA J	\$57,567.00
DIGNAN, KENNETH G	\$55,057.00
DIMARTINO, MICHELE	\$55,406.00

DUNCAN, JASON E	\$46,023.00
DUNN, NATALIE A	\$21,648.00
DUVAL, CHERYL A	\$67,947.75
ELLIS, KAREN J	\$58,819.00
ENOS, EVELYN A	\$11,332.16
ERICKSON, TRISIA L	\$42,459.00
ERICSON, CANDACE A	\$22,533.00
ERICSON, NEIL J	\$32,320.00
ESIELIONIS, C.A.	\$52,120.00
FARRAJ, LORI J	\$16,939.00
FARRELL, MATTHEW J	\$50,231.00
FAUTEUX, CHRISTINE	\$38,317.00
FEMINO, MARTHA M	\$73,578.90
FLAGG, SUSAN	\$46,955.00
FLETCHER, BEVERLY	\$14,620.00
FOLEY, HERBERT L	\$26,291.20
FOLEY, JANET M	\$56,156.00
FRANKLIN, KELLEE	\$49,499.00
FRITSCHER, GERALD	\$12,350.00
FRITSCHER, JOHN A	\$32,864.80
FRITSCHER, K.S.	\$20,257.00
FRITSCHER, LYNN M	\$36,434.00
FROST, ALICIA L	\$28,280.00
FROST, MARILYN E	\$61,656.00
GAGNE, RITA G	\$10,266.48
GANCORZ, CAROL A	\$58,931.00
GAREAU, CHARLOTTE	\$52,120.00
GARTNER, VICTOR	\$61,635.00
GEORGE, ELIZABETH	\$46,955.00
GEORGE, SYBIL J	\$20,257.00
GLIDDEN, JESSICA M	\$16,006.00
GLODAS, CLAUDIA J	\$60,207.00
GRAHAM, CATHERINE	\$26,331.00
GREGORIOU, JANE C	\$18,764.00
GRIFFIN, PATRICIA L	\$17,858.00
GRONER, MICHAEL H	\$42,380.00
GROSS, ERICA A	\$35,120.00
GUERTIN, FRANK J	\$73,370.44
GUILBAULT, LAURA J	\$20,190.00
GUMULA, THADDEUS	\$70,578.90
GUNNARSON, RUSS	\$24,974.40
HADDAD, GITA W	\$57,567.00
HALEY, CHRIS P.	\$47,387.00
HALL, ELAINE R	\$62,983.00
HALL, MICHELLE L	\$44,101.00
HALL, WALLACE A	\$50,480.00
HANSON, DONNA T	\$38,124.00
HARDING CRAWFORD,	\$43,761.00
HARDING, TAWNYA L	\$16,006.00
HARRIS, BERNADETTE	\$53,500.00
HARROLD, DANIEL W	\$60,029.00
HASTINGS, VIRGINIA	\$64,204.00
HAVALOTTI, PHYLIS J	\$20,257.00
HELDENBERGH-HUGHES,	
ANDREA L	\$45,640.00
HENGST, DENA J	\$21,860.40

HEPPENSTALL, N.	\$50,738.00
HILL-NIAMBELE, S.	\$52,120.00
HOLUK, NATALIE W	\$40,655.00
HOLWELL, KATHLEEN	\$60,239.00
HOUGHTON, SUSANNE	\$18,764.00
HOWARD, PATRICIA	\$61,635.00
HUARD, JENNIFER A	\$52,964.00
HUBBARD, DONNA I	\$57,567.00
HUDEC-SURRETTE, B.	\$61,635.00
HURLEY, RICHARD	\$54,807.00
HURLEY, RICHARD J	\$24,669.00
INMAN, KATHLYN M	\$50,115.00
JABLONSKI, MICHAEL	\$51,096.00
JALBERT, MAURA K	\$16,006.00
JOHNSON, JEAN M	\$14,769.00
JOHNSON, KATHLEEN	\$58,819.00
JOHNSON, NAIDA	\$65,518.00
JOHNSON, SUZANNE	\$44,783.00
JOHNSON-CORREIA, C.	\$17,203.00
JONES, NANCY O	\$60,489.00
JONES, PAMELA L	\$14,769.00
JORDAN, MARY ANN	\$39,024.00
KANE, KEVIN J	\$60,128.00
KEMPSKIE, JEFFREY T	\$37,751.00
KENTRIS, NANCY A	\$6,111.00
KIELINEN, DONNA K	\$49,360.00
KILLOUGH-MILLER, R.	\$56,260.00
KMIEC, GLADYS B	\$16,887.00
KOERNER, ANDREW J	\$22,252.00
KOLESNIK, ROBERT S	\$62,233.00
KONDE, BEVERLY M	\$54,807.00
KONTOES, JESSICA E	\$14,769.00
KORZEC, PATRICIA C	\$18,764.00
KOVACH, CYNTHIA M	\$33,029.00
KOWAL, SHAWNA L	\$13,765.16
KOZLOWSKI, KARA M	\$43,837.00
KULARSKI, ELLEN R	\$28,810.00
LACROIX, SANDRA M	\$40,524.00
LAKE, ANNE MARIE	\$21,072.00
LAKSO, PATRICIA A	\$46,269.00
LAM, NICOLETTE	\$19,785.00
LAMARCHE, M.P.	\$8,613.74
LAPATI, DONA L	\$60,239.00
LAPERLE, MICHAEL J	\$18,096.00
LAPORTE, M.FERRIN	\$38,317.00
LAROSE, SUSAN E	\$51,577.00
LAUNDIS, CLAUDIA C	\$31,990.00
LAVIOLETTE, P.H	\$60,489.00
LEBLANC, JOANNE M	\$17,858.00
LEBLANC, NANCY Z	\$61,635.00
LEDoux, CHRISTINE J	\$37,751.00
LEROUX, ANDREA P	\$49,360.00
LEVETT, THOMAS R	\$39,065.00
LEWIS, PETER B	\$44,325.00
LINDSAY, SUSAN C	\$46,390.00
LITTIZZIO, ERNEST M	\$36,434.00



LOHR, DARCY J	\$19,235.00
LOOSEMORE, W.	\$60,885.00
LUCCHESI, CRYSTAL	\$27,613.40
LUUKKO, NANCY G	\$61,885.00
MACWILLIAMS, S.M	\$24,860.00
MAGA, JOSEPH F	\$77,760.00
MAGNINO, JOHN D	\$75,231.60
MAGNINO, LEILANI A	\$21,444.00
MAIO, CHRISTINE M	\$17,858.00
MAJOY, BRIAN R	\$42,753.00
MAJOY, ROSANNE	\$76,514.72
MAMMONE, DIANE M	\$46,371.27
MANKOWSKY, JULIE	\$59,069.00
MARDEROSIAN, J.J.E	\$42,459.00
MARKIEWICZ, RENEE J	\$46,691.57
MARSDEN, DAWN M	\$11,907.00
MARSHALL, M.	\$127,878.50
MARSHALL, PHYLLIS	\$25,678.40
MARTINELLI, DENISE	\$46,023.00
MARUCA, CHRIS	\$47,978.00
MCCARTHY, K.	\$24,050.00
MCCARTHY, MATT D	\$32,364.80
MCCORMACK, MARY	\$46,196.00
MCCRONE, ANN C	\$16,939.00
MCDONALD, SHERRY	\$18,764.00
MCDONALD, TRACEY	\$54,268.00
MCMORROW, DIANE K	\$34,949.25
MCNAMARA, ROBERT	\$14,593.92
MCNIFF, PAUL S	\$56,156.00
MEDEIROS, CARLA M	\$30,625.00
MELANSON, DAVID E	\$64,320.00
MELANSON, KAREN A	\$58,819.00
MERTZIC, LINDA	\$14,918.00
METTERVILLE, ELIZ.	\$11,907.00
MILLER, BERNICE A	\$27,252.00
MILLER, KAREN A	\$46,599.00
MILLER, MOLLY A	\$16,939.00
MIRABILE, KATHLEEN	\$19,785.00
MOEBUS, GARY W	\$56,619.00
MONFREDO, JOHN C	\$47,978.00
MORELLO, PAUL J	\$56,406.00
MORREALE, CATHRYN	\$54,950.00
MORRIS, REBECCA L	\$58,512.00
MORRISON, DEBORAH	\$20,257.00
MUIR, SHEILA A	\$60,000.00
MURRAY, GEORGE V	\$35,526.40
MUSNICKI, SUSANNE R	\$76,558.10
MUSNICKI, TONI	\$41,565.00
NEWTON, EDWARD R	\$46,790.00
NICHOLS, CAROLYN M	\$56,156.00
NICHOLS, IDA S	\$20,257.00
NICHOLS, ROBERT E	\$24,323.20
NICHOLS, SANDRA A	\$62,983.00
NOEL, ROBERT E	\$35,526.40
NORTON, SANDRA L	\$10,423.00
NOSEL, CHRISTINE R	\$43,632.00

NOWICKI, SALLY A	\$35,710.00
O'CONNOR, JEAN F	\$24,050.00
O'CONNOR, MARTIN J	\$16,836.00
O'DONNELL, LINDA T	\$57,493.00
O'DONNELL, PAUL M	\$19,172.00
OHMAN, MARGARET	\$19,235.00
OLSON, BETHANY G	\$50,480.00
OMILANOWICZ, D.	\$61,885.00
O'NEIL, CHRISTINA E	\$17,858.00
ORSZULAK, JAMIE K	\$16,006.00
ORTOLINO, SHANNON	\$46,790.00
PAGE, BARBARA G	\$45,220.00
PAIGE, PATRICIA A	\$20,257.00
PARADIS, JANET E	\$54,960.00
PARSONS, BETTYANNE	\$38,524.00
PASCALE, HELENE A	\$57,567.00
PATTERSON, CAMILLE	\$25,678.40
PATTERSON, FRANK O	\$36,026.40
PAULA, JOAN V	\$74,882.56
PAULA, RICHARD M	\$60,239.00
PEABODY, DAVID N	\$25,678.40
PEABODY, DONNA M	\$16,584.00
PEARSALL, CAROL J	\$30,933.00
PELLEY, DEBORAH R	\$40,808.04
PELTIER, JOAN N	\$20,257.00
PEREIRA, ROBERT J	\$58,819.00
PERKINS, DONNA M	\$20,199.00
PERREAULT, MARIE J	\$20,257.00
PETERSON, KARLA V	\$54,807.00
PETERSON, KRISTY J	\$16,006.00
PETTY, LINDA M	\$55,442.00
PIERMARINI, SUE	\$42,371.20
PIMENTAL, JOHN J	\$47,470.00
PITISCI, NANCY R	\$23,522.00
PLANTE, MICHAEL W	\$22,246.40
PLUMB, SANDRA G	\$57,493.00
PODBELSKI, NATHAN	\$39,065.00
POIRIER, HELEN V	\$60,489.00
POLLARD, LORNA A	\$10,705.00
POLLITT, ALLISON B	\$45,220.00
POPE, COLLEEN	\$12,746.00
POWERS, JENNIFER E	\$37,751.00
PYLE, CHARLES J	\$64,989.20
QUINLAN, MARY	\$31,936.00
RATTE, PATRICIA A	\$24,616.15
REED, FLORENCE J	\$30,772.00
REED, VIRGINIA S	\$55,630.00
REED, VIRGINIA S	\$750.00
REMELIUS, FAE ELLE	\$63,895.00
RENAUD, JEANETTE F	\$52,120.00
RENAUD, SHELLY J	\$ 8,469.50
RICCIARDI, CHRIS	\$17,498.02
RICE, LINDA L	\$15,744.00
RICH, EUGENE M	\$40,380.00
RICHARDS, ALICE M	\$58,226.00
ROBERTS, MARIA M	\$15,317.00



ROBINSON, BONNIE R	\$20,257.00	TILBURG, AMY L	\$29,110.90
ROBINSON, KATHY A	\$16,137.04	TOOMEY, CHRISTINE	\$16,137.04
ROGOWSKI, LINDA M	\$19,235.00	TOPPER, LISA A	\$13,765.16
ROSBURY, NANCY M	\$59,957.00	TREMBLAY, NOREEN	\$10,536.00
ROTTI, JANICE E	\$18,764.00	VAILLANCOURT, S.	\$44,101.00
ROUSSEAU, JULIE	\$29,110.00	VALARDI, BRENDA	\$12,192.00
ROUTHIER, LU-ANN	\$17,858.00	VALARDI, JR, EDWARD	\$30,347.20
ROY, NANCEE J	\$41,409.00	VARIN, KERRY E	\$61,443.00
RUCKI, DIANA L	\$57,567.00	VARNEY, RACHEL M	\$36,434.00
RUGGLES, KELLIE A	\$46,599.00	VERHEYEN, DOROTHY	\$56,876.00
RUSSELL, GERALD H	\$41,208.00	VEROLINI, NORENE J	\$25,678.40
RYDING, CAROL A	\$37,024.00	VIGUE, NOEL R	\$52,302.00
SACRAMONE, JASON D	\$45,837.00	VYCE, JANICE A	\$41,695.00
SAINT DENIS, LINDA R	\$17,858.00	WAITE, CLARISSA L	\$53,147.00
SALVADORE, LAURIE J	\$57,817.00	WALSH, ERIN K	\$16,137.04
SANFORD, KIM E	\$35,120.00	WARREN, HEATHER G	\$12,222.00
SARABIA, MARCELINO	\$59,900.00	WELSCH, MARY ANN	\$12,701.34
SAVARD, LINDA G	\$61,656.00	WHITAKER, S.	\$ 8,439.50
SAVASTA, KIM C	\$7,603.83	WHITE, KRISTIN L	\$47,978.00
SAYRE, PATRICIA A	\$57,567.00	WHITE, PAUL W	\$24,323.20
SCANLAN, CATHLEEN	\$71,957.00	WHITMORE, CAROL D	\$64,454.00
SCHOOLCRAFT, MARY	\$9,617.50	WHITNEY, CAROL W	\$12,315.00
SCHUBERT, THEO	\$37,751.00	WIDING, MAUREEN A	\$54,057.00
SCOTLAND, CHERYL L	\$19,785.00	WILLIAMS, JANETH H	\$59,562.00
SERRA, CHRISTINE L	\$18,764.00	WILLIAMS, JOANN	\$49,583.00
SHAULIS, JAMES E	\$25,678.40	WILLIAMS, MARTHA	\$23,192.49
SHELDON, ARTHUR G	\$48,136.00	WISNEWSKI, BRENDA	\$10,128.50
SHELDON, LAURIE A	\$39,698.00	WITASZEK, ALICE E	\$55,144.00
SJOBERG, KATIE M	\$16,006.00	WITKOS, RENEE L	\$20,409.00
SKERRY, STACEY L	\$8,861.40	WOJCIK, HEIDI L	\$42,459.00
SKOWYRA, PATRICIA	\$38,024.00	WORTHINGTON, PAT.	\$62,983.00
SKRZYPCZAK, ANN M	\$62,983.00	WROBEL, LINDA	\$61,885.00
SOUSA, CAROL A	\$67,370.00	WYPYCH, JOANN	\$ 8,824.79
SPENCER, LINDA L	\$60,489.00	YOUNG, BRIAN T	\$56,817.00
SPOONER, JOHN M	\$58,819.00	YOUNGS, CAROL N	\$69,036.90
ST. JEAN, JAN T	\$54,268.00	ZALNERAITIS, BARB	\$18,764.00
STAITI, KIM S	\$27,000.00	ZALNERAITIS, M.	\$37,751.00
STANDRING, SHIRLEY	\$36,939.00	ZALNERAITIS, R.	\$55,929.00
STANKAITIS, D.	\$36,027.00	ZAORSKI, STEPHEN M	\$39,065.00
STEKL, NANCY A	\$50,738.00	ZOLA, JEAN G	\$60,239.00
STEVENS, ERIN A	\$48,955.00		
STEVENS-NEWCOMB, S	\$65,124.80		
STEWART, ASHLEY B	\$36,434.00		
STEWART, DUNCAN L	\$73,065.00		
STEWART, LESLIE B	\$41,409.00		
STEWART, TODD D	\$39,065.00		
STICKLE, RICHARD K	\$61,069.00		
STOCKWELL, SUSAN E	\$54,807.00		
STOLZ, PATRICIA A	\$37,024.00		
STUART, DEBRA A	\$56,876.00		
STYMIEST, CHRISTINE	\$15,907.50		
SULLIVAN, JEANETTE	\$20,707.00		
SULLIVAN, KEVIN W	\$39,198.00		
SYPTERAS, LILIANA E	\$ 8,469.50		
SZAFAROWICZ, P.	\$48,886.00		
TERRIEN, DEBORAH A	\$57,126.00		



# **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

---

**BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**

**TOWN COLLECTOR**

**TREASURER**



**Annual Report  
of the  
Board of Assessors**

The Board of Assessors (the Board) had a busy and productive year in 2003. The Board is primarily responsible for the valuation of real and personal property for the purpose of levying the property tax. Oakham is seeing continued growth as evidenced by new home construction throughout town. The new growth presents a challenge to the Board as our duties include maintaining a database on each parcel of property in the town, and also inspecting all properties where a building permit was issued, giving special attention to new homes that were under construction.

The assessors are also responsible for submitting annually a tax rate recapitulation sheet to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as evidence that the town has a balanced budget within the limits of Proposition 2 ½. We offer the following comparative financial data derived from the tax rate recapitulation sheets of 2003 and 2004.

	<u>Budgetary Basis</u>		<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	
<b>LEVY LIMIT CALCULATION</b>			
Beginning of period levy limit	\$1,336,188	\$1,415,288	\$ 79,100
Add:			
2 ½ percent	33,405	35,382	1,977
New growth	<u>45,695</u>	<u>64,509</u>	<u>18,814</u>
End of period levy limit	1,415,288	1,515,179	99,891
Debt exclusions	<u>88,690</u>	<u>94,527</u>	<u>5,837</u>
Maximum allowable levy	1,503,978	1,609,706	105,728
Excess levy capacity	<u>98,632</u>	<u>214,617</u>	<u>115,985</u>
<b>BUDGET SUMMARY</b>			
Revenue Sources:			
Tax levy	1,405,346	1,395,089	(10,257)
Less:			
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(16,249)	(16,898)	(649)
State aid	263,912	236,617	(27,295)
Local receipts	218,500	286,200	67,700
Other available funds	<u>251,450</u>	<u>257,258</u>	<u>5,808</u>
Total Budgetary Revenue	<u>2,122,959</u>	<u>2,158,266</u>	<u>35,307</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Total amount to be raised – net	<u>\$2,122,959</u>	<u>\$2,158,266</u>	<u>\$ 35,307</u>
<b>OTHER DATA</b>			
Tax rate	\$12.00	\$11.54	\$(.46)
Total town valuation	\$117,112,172	\$120,891,598	\$3,779,426

the next year will present new challenges to the Board. In 2005, the town, through the Board of Assessors, will be required to plan and carry out a periodic reassessment program to ensure full and fair cash value assessments. This process will include revaluing the town's property so that assessed values approximate current market values of comparative property.

On a personal level, we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the hard work of Priscilla Johnson and James Smith, who are currently employed in this office. Their expertise and commitment were an integral part of getting 2004 preliminary tax bills issued, setting the 2004 tax rate, and giving new direction to us as a Board. We thank them and the people of Oakham for their understanding and support throughout the recent transition process.

Respectfully submitted,

For the Board of Assessors

William Haynes, Chair

Michael Nichols, Member

Deborah Joyce, Member





# TOWN ACCOUNTANT

## COMBINED BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2003

	General Fund	Special Funds	Capital Projects	Trusts and Agency	Long Term Debt	Total (memorandum)
<b>Assets:</b>						
Cash - Fleet Bank	904,073			336,375		1,240,448
Personal Property Receivable	8,445					8,445
Real Estate Receivable	43,145					43,145
Withdrawl Tax Receivable	344					344
Tax Title Receivable	32,956					32,956
Motor Vehicle Excise Receivables	19,433					19,433
Title V Loan Program Receivables	26,450					26,450
Due to Other Funds		191,794	3,473	37,933		233,200
Authorized Chapter 90 Funding		113,432				113,432
Amount to be Provided for Long Term Debt Obligations					802,500	802,500
<b>Total Asset</b>	<b>\$ 1,034,846</b>	<b>\$ 305,226</b>	<b>\$ 3,473</b>	<b>\$ 374,308</b>	<b>\$ 802,500</b>	<b>\$ 2,520,353</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>						
Abatements & Exemptions	43,071					43,071
Deferred Rev. - Property Tax	8,862					8,862
Deferred Rev. - Other	78,839	113,432				192,271
Payroll Withholdings	71					71
Due from General Fund	233,200					233,200
Long Term Debt Payables					802,500	802,500
<b>Total Liability</b>	<b>364,043</b>	<b>113,432</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>802,500</b>	<b>1,279,975</b>
<b>Fund Balance:</b>						
F/B Reserved for Snow & Ice Deficit	(4,750)					(4,750)
F/B Reserved Subsequent Yr. Exp	197,258					197,258
F/B Reserved For Encumbrances	71,465					71,465
F/B Reserved For Expenditures		191,794	3,473	288,818		484,084
F/B Non-Expendable Trust Funds				85,490		85,490
F/B Undesignated Fund Balance	406,830					406,830
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>670,803</b>	<b>191,794</b>	<b>3,473</b>	<b>374,308</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,240,377</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances:</b>	<b>\$ 1,034,846</b>	<b>\$ 305,226</b>	<b>\$ 3,473</b>	<b>\$ 374,308</b>	<b>\$ 802,500</b>	<b>\$ 2,520,352</b>

Appropriation/Expenditure Report  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2003

Account Name	Carried From Fiscal 2002	Fiscal 2003 Appropriation	Reserve Fund Transfers	Expenditures	Carried To Fiscal 2004	Unexpended Balance
Moderator		150.00		150.00		0.00
Board of Selectmen		8,275.00	1,007.00	8,812.71		469.29
Purchase Old School House		44,000.00		38,496.75		5,503.25
Town Accountant/Admin. Assistant		24,724.00		23,091.26		1,632.74
Finance Committee		575.00		413.40		161.60
Reserve Fund		15,000.00	(15,000.00)			0.00
Board of Assessors		23,814.00		21,178.94		2,635.06
Treasurer		8,305.00		8,301.14		3.86
Town Collector		10,770.00		10,221.45		548.55
Town Council		12,000.00	4,164.09	16,164.09		0.00
Treasurer Foreclosure Expenses	3,160.78	0.00		965.50	2,195.28	0.00
Collector Tax Title Expenses	62.35	500.00		199.85		362.50
Town Clerk		5,685.00		5,065.34		619.66
Town Clerk Election		2,375.00		2,101.70		273.30
Town Clerk Census		1,820.00		1,436.43		383.57
Conservation Commission		675.00		85.00		590.00
Planning Board		660.00		660.00		0.00
Zoning Appeals Board		375.00		0.00		375.00
C.M.R.P.C. Assessment		340.00		339.12		0.88
Town Hall Expenses	225.00	18,700.00		17,853.49		1,071.51
Town Hall Engineering/Bidding Boiler		12,000.00		4,473.82		7,526.18
Annual Town Report		1,500.00		726.00		774.00
Municipal Building Utilities		16,000.00		16,000.00		0.00
Police Department Chief Salary		45,000.00		45,000.00		0.00
Police Department Expenses	293.03	42,441.00	6,405.38	49,135.09		4.32
Fire Department		39,890.00		35,195.42		4,694.58
Fire Dept. / Matching Grant Funds		6,260.00		2,913.15	3,346.85	0.00
Fire Dept. / 4" Hose and Valves		5,040.00		4,946.00		94.00
Dispatching		27,690.00		26,515.44		1,174.56
Ambulance		29,820.00		23,932.53		5,887.47
Zoning Enforcement Officer		903.00		777.69		125.31
Animal Inspector Salary		500.00		500.00		0.00
Emergency Mang. Director		100.00		0.00		100.00
Dog Officer		5,100.00		3,557.62		1,542.38
Tree Warden		1,400.00		1,400.00		0.00

Account Name	Carried From Fiscal 2002	Fiscal 2003 Appropriation	Reserve Fund Transfers	Expenditures	Carried To Fiscal 2004	Unexpended Balance
Quabbin Reg. Assessment		913,653.00		913,653.00		0.00
Quabbin Reg. Bond Costs		127,820.00		127,820.00		0.00
Vocational Education		105,000.00		92,158.16		12,841.84
Highway Department Salaries		102,855.00		102,329.20		525.80
Highway Department Expenses	673.40	49,915.00	2,360.17	51,054.40		1,894.17
Highway / S.P.C.C. Plan		1,800.00		1,800.00		0.00
Highway / Paint Salt Shed		3,500.00		3,500.00		0.00
Highway Snow and Ice		31,880.00	1,063.36	37,693.36		(4,750.00)
Street Lights		3,500.00		3,117.32		382.68
Cemetery		3,075.00		3,075.00		0.00
Board of Health		1,450.00		904.70		545.30
Council on Aging	61.59	4,250.00		3,928.85		382.74
Veterans' Agent		2,845.00		1,694.40		1,150.60
Cable Access		100.00		100.00		0.00
Library		25,612.00		24,325.84	37.50	1,248.66
Library / Capital Repairs	52,015.02	50,000.00		37,037.16	64,977.86	0.00
Parks and Recreation		5,250.00		5,185.41		64.59
Historical Commission		100.00		0.00		100.00
Cultural Council		200.00		34.80		165.20
Debt Payments - Principal		45,625.00		45,625.00		0.00
Debt Payments - Interest		37,500.00		37,445.93		54.07
Treasurer Short Term Interest		4,000.00		0.00		4,000.00
Water Treatment System	1,445.00	0.00		500.00	945.00	0.00
Worc. County Retirement Assessment		19,429.00		19,429.00		0.00
Group Insurance		22,000.00		18,648.70		3,351.30
Town Share Medicare		5,500.00		4,924.13		575.87
Blanket Insurance		40,000.00		32,048.00		7,952.00
Wachusett Home Health Aid		1,279.00		1,279.00		0.00
TOTALS	\$ 57,936.17	\$ 2,020,525.00	\$ -	\$ 1,939,920.29	\$ 71,502.49	\$ 67,038.39



**Statement of Special Revenue Funds  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2003**

Account Name	Opening	Revenues		Expenditures		Available
	Balance	Interest	Receipts	Wages	Other	Balance
<b><u>State Grants:</u></b>						
Community Policing	197.19		10,000.00	5,675.69	1,758.89	2,762.61
Dare Grant	3,439.91		200.00	786.39	2,779.89	73.63
Watch Your Car Grant	675.00					675.00
Police Records System Grant	0.00		15,500.00		15,049.00	451.00
Traffic Enforcement Grant	0.00		2,375.57	3,190.88		(815.31)
Firefighters Equipment Grant	0.00		15,000.00		4,862.90	10,137.10
FEMA Assist. to Firefighters Grant	0.00		56,340.00		53,661.55	2,678.45
Title V Loan Program	75,955.16	1,843.87	9,935.37			87,734.40
Community Septic Management	14,179.32	471.39				14,650.71
COA Grant	0.00		2,600.00		2,600.00	0.00
Library Grant	16,158.11		2,302.22		11,843.21	6,617.12
Cultural Council (Arts Council)	1,060.88	27.85	2,000.00		2,528.90	559.83
	111,665.57	2,343.11	116,253.16	9,652.96	95,084.34	125,524.54
<b><u>Revolving Funds (Chapter 53E 1/2)</u></b>						
BOH Agent Fees	1,591.00		6,195.00	5,455.00		2,331.00
Building Inspector Fees	0.00		10,798.17	9,925.34		872.83
Dog Officer Fees	5,677.91		2,288.50	247.00	899.61	6,819.80
Fire Inspector Fees	0.00		895.00	740.00		155.00
Plumbing Inspector Fees	0.00		1,360.00	1,360.00		0.00
Town Collector Fees	718.00		8,035.00	7,360.00		1,393.00
Town Collector Deputy Fees	91.00		2,837.00	2,869.00		59.00
Town Clerk Fees	986.95		1,614.15	643.75	914.50	1,042.85

Account Name	Opening Balance	Revenues		Expenditures		Available Balance
		Interest	Receipts	Wages	Other	
Wire Inspector Fees	0.00		2,025.00	2,015.00		10.00
Police Department Revolving	550.00		2,995.00	935.36	509.60	2,100.04
Planning Board Revolving	0.00		2,910.00		1,139.58	1,770.42
	9,614.86	0.00	41,952.82	31,550.45	3,463.29	16,553.94
<b><u>Special Revenue Funds</u></b>						
Ambulance Receipts Reserved	4,582.31		27,772.22		30,000.00	2,354.53
Parks & Recreation Fees	7,296.34		6,007.18		6,472.73	6,830.79
Conservation Wetland Protection	2,799.81		1,017.50			3,817.31
Planning Board 53G Consultants	25,739.64	403.32	12,600.00		6,162.00	32,580.96
	40,418.10	403.32	47,396.90	0.00	42,634.73	45,583.59
<b><u>Donation Funds</u></b>						
Police Law Enforcement Trust	250.30				226.51	23.79
Ambulance Donations	1,251.00		1,240.00		1,686.76	804.24
Fire Department Donations	150.00				52.50	97.50
COA Donations (Norman Faford)	0.00		445.00		339.99	105.01
COA Donations (Herald Account)	968.31		263.00			1,231.31
Library Donations and Fines	1,831.37		38.62			1,869.99
	4,450.98	0.00	1,986.62	0.00	2,305.76	4,131.84
<b><u>Project Funds</u></b>						
Municipal Building Project	226.87				226.87	0.00
Landfill Closure	3,642.87				170.00	3,472.87
	3,869.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	396.87	3,472.87

Account Name	Opening Balance	Revenues Interest	Revenues Receipts	Expenditures Wages	Expenditures Other	Available Balance
<b><u>Non-Expendable Trust Funds</u></b>						
Fobes Memorial Library	18,307.33					18,307.33
Library Trust	26,033.98					26,033.98
Henry Wright Trust	255.45					255.45
Cemetery Perpetual Care	35,143.60		750.00			35,893.60
Alden Fund Stocks	5,000.00					5,000.00
	84,740.36	0.00	750.00	0.00	0.00	85,490.36
<b><u>Expendable Trust Funds</u></b>						
Fobes Library Trust	12,129.69	1,471.72				13,601.41
Oakham Library Trust	11,224.47	1,797.05				13,021.52
Henry Wright Trust	169.25	20.49				189.74
Cemetery Expendable Trust	14,722.48	2,398.09	2,850.00		4,433.99	15,536.58
Sam Dean Legacy	9,328.48	449.91				9,778.39
War Memorial	740.03	35.70				775.73
Post War Rehab	3,850.53	185.71				4,036.24
Alden Fund	48,255.89	2,327.48			1,000.00	49,583.37
Stabilization Fund	140,029.84	4,334.47				144,364.31
	240,450.66	13,020.62	2,850.00	0.00	5,433.99	250,887.29
<b><u>Agency Funds</u></b>						
Police Road Details	60.96		33,891.69	31,419.59		2,533.06
Highway Driveway Permits	28,200.00		9,600.00		2,400.00	35,400.00
	28,260.96	0.00	43,491.69	31,419.59	2,400.00	37,933.06
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>\$ 523,471.23</b>	<b>\$ 15,767.05</b>	<b>\$ 254,681.19</b>	<b>\$ 72,623.00</b>	<b>\$ 151,718.98</b>	<b>\$ 569,577.49</b>



**Debt Schedule  
As of June 30, 2003**

**Municipal Building Debt:**

Borrowed \$ 725,000 from U. S. D. A. Rural Development 1999  
Final Payment January 2039, Annual Interest Rate 4.75%

Principal Balance as of July 1, 2002	670,625.00	
Principal Payment during Fiscal 2003	<u>18,125.00</u>	
Balance as of June 30, 2003		652,500.00

**Equipment Long Term Debt:**

State House Note, Final Payment July 2010  
Borrowed \$70,000 for Backhoe Purchase, and  
\$135,000 for Fire Truck Purchase

Principal Balance as of July 1, 2002	177,500.00	
Principal Payment during Fiscal 2003	<u>27,500.00</u>	
Balance as of June 30, 2003		<u>150,000.00</u>

<b>Total Town Debt as of June 30, 2003</b>	<b><u><u>\$ 802,500.00</u></u></b>
--	------------------------------------

## TOWN COLLECTOR

The Town Collector received and paid to the Town Treasurer the following amounts.

These amounts were received for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2003.

### Real Estate

2003	1309746.74
2002	24566.73
2001	2433.13

### Personal Property

2003	38885.59
2002	2955.74
2001	111.98
2000	67.86
1999	96.20
1998	65.61
1997	65.08
1996	58.18
1995	75.06
1994	73.70
1993	65.96

### Motor Vehicle

2003	176107.05
2002	46690.78
2001	2995.22
2000	913.23
1999	418.34

### Other

Title V Septic Loan Principal	9935.37
Title V Septic Loan Interest	1519.73
Chapter Land Withdrawal Tax and Interest	343.59
General Fund	99.25
Flagging Fees for Registry of Motor Vehicles	960.00
Deputy Tax Collector Charges and Fees	2869.00
Town Collector Charges and Fees	2660.00
Municipal Lien Certificates	5375.00
Interest Added to Delinquent Bills	5356.92
Bank Interest	281.59

TOTAL	1635792.62
-------	------------

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan J. Carpenter  
Town Collector

TOWN OF OAKHAM  
REPORT OF THE TREASURER  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2003

GENERAL FUND

CASH

BALANCE JULY 1, 2002	\$567,804.51
Cash received during the year	\$2,677,800.70
Cash Available	\$3,245,605.21
Cash disbursed during the year	\$2,383,723.87
BALANCE JUNE 30, 2003	\$861,881.34

TRUST FUNDS

Library Funds:

Forbes Memorial Library	\$31,905.06	
Oakham Library	\$39,055.51	
Oakham Library and Park	\$445.19	\$71,405.76

---

Stabilization Fund	Fleet Trust	\$144,364.31
--------------------	-------------	--------------

Peoples Bank

Cemetery Funds	\$52,114.17
----------------	-------------

Sam Dean Legacy Fund	\$9,778.39
----------------------	------------

War Memorial Fund	\$775.73
-------------------	----------

Post War Rehab Fund	\$4,036.24
---------------------	------------

Arts Council	\$0.01
--------------	--------

Alden Fund

Cash	\$49,583.37	
Securities, at cost *	\$5,000.00	\$54,583.37

\* Market value of Alden Fund Investments of approximately \$225554.76 are not included. 16145.65 shares at \$13.97 per share.

TOTAL TRUST FUNDS	\$337,057.98
-------------------	--------------

Respectfully Submitted,

Edna G. Holloway  
Treasurer



# I N D E X

Dedication .....	3
General Government	
Administration:	
Board of Selectmen .....	6
Appointed Positions .....	8
Town Clerk .....	11
Public Safety:	
Fire Department/Ambulance .....	23
Highway Department .....	24
Police Department .....	25
Human Services:	
Animal Inspector .....	28
Arts Council / Cultural Council .....	29
Board of Health .....	30
Building Inspector / Zoning Enforcement Officer .....	30
Cemetery Commissioners .....	31
Conservation Commission .....	31
Council on Aging .....	32
Librarian .....	35
Library Building Committee .....	36
Library Trustees .....	37
Parks & Recreation Committee .....	39
Planning Board .....	40
Plumbing & Gas Inspector .....	41
Veterans Agent .....	41
Wire Inspector .....	42
Zoning Appeals Board .....	42
Schools and Education:	
Quabbin Regional School District .....	45
Superintendent of Schools .....	46
Quabbin Regional High School .....	48
Quabbin Regional Middle School .....	55
Oakham Center School .....	58
Annual Rate of Compensation .....	60
Financial Reports:	
Assessor .....	66
Town Accountant .....	69
Town Collector .....	76
Treasurer .....	77

# C O N T A C T S

<b><u>Ambulance - Non-Emergency</u></b> .....	882-5555
Chief L. Thomas McCaffrey	
<b><u>Board of Assessors</u></b> .....	882-5549
Priscilla Johnson, Assessor	
Office Hours: Wednesday, Noon-3p.m. & Friday, 9a.m.-Noon.	
Meetings: 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday 7:00p.m	
<b><u>Board of Health</u></b> .....	882-5549
Meetings: 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday 7:30p.m.	
<b><u>Building Inspector</u></b> .....	882-5549
Joe Sansoucy	
Office Hours: Wednesday evenings, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	
<b><u>Conservation Commission</u></b> .....	882-5549
Meetings: 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	
<b><u>Council on Aging</u></b> .....	882-5251
Meetings: Last Thursday 7:00p.m.	
<b><u>Dog Officer/Animal Control</u></b> .....	882-3347
Nancy Clockedile	
<b><u>Fire Department</u></b>	
Non-Emergency Dispatch .....	882-5555
Office Phone .....	882-5218
Chief L. Thomas McCaffrey	
<b><u>Highway</u></b> .....	882-5556
C. Kevin Currier, Superintendent	
<b><u>Library</u></b> .....	882-3372
Maude Stone, Librarian	
Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	
<b><u>Planning Board</u></b> .....	882-5549
Meetings: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday 7:00 p.m.	
<b><u>Plumbing Inspector</u></b> .....	882-3308
Byron Carpenter (no scheduled office hours)	
<b><u>Police Department</u></b>	
Non-Emergency Dispatch .....	882-3347
Office Phone .....	882-3273
Chief Donald Haapakoski	
<b><u>Selectmen</u></b> .....	882-5549
Carol Poole, Administrative Assistant	
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	
Meetings: Every other Monday 7:30 p.m.	
<b><u>Town Collector</u></b> .....	882-5549
Susan Carpenter	
Office Hours: Monday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	
Tuesday, Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	
<b><u>Town Clerk</u></b> .....	882-5549
Christine Mardirosian	
Office Hours: Monday 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and Wednesday s 6:00 p.m – 7:30 p.m.,	
<b><u>Treasurer</u></b> .....	882-5549
Edna Holloway	
Office Hours: Monday 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	
<b><u>Wire Inspector</u></b> .....	882-3864
Denis delaGorgiendere (no scheduled office hours)	







Presentation  
of the  
Blue Star Service Banner



7 p.m. May 19, 2003  
Memorial Town Hall  
Oakham, Massachusetts 01068

*"Honoring Those Who Serve"*

Honored Guest  
Senator Stephen Brewer

*List of Recipients*

**James & Jasia Albano**

James is a member of the N.H. Air National Guard.

**Shirley Bunarowski**

Shirley's grandson, Christopher Smith is a member of the U.S. Marine Corps.

**Betty Gaidenowicz**

Betty's nephew Christopher Gaidenowicz is a member of the U.S. Navy.

**Don & Dorothy Jodray**

Don & Dorothy's son Jim Jodray is a member of the U.S. Air Force.

**Ernest & Karen Jolin**

Ernest & Karen's son Doug Jolin is a member of the U.S. Marine Corps.

**John & Catherine Kennedy**

John & Katherine's son Daniel is a member of the U.S. Marine Corps.

**Linda & Dennis Rice**

Linda & Dennis' nephew Jay Kumpey is a member of the U.S. Army Reserves.

**Natalie Sokol**

Natalie's grandson Daniel MacAlister enlisted in the U.S. Army

**William & Kathy Usher**

William & Kathy's son William Jr. is a member of the U.S. Navy.

**George Jr. & Eve Wells**

George & Eve's daughter Lisa Wells is a member of the U.S. Army.

